DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 129 552 RC 009 545

TITLE	Rural Development: Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1975. Sixth Annual Report to the Congress.
INSTITUTION	Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	Nov 75
NOTE	103p.; For related documents, see ED 104 587, ED 107 432-435
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$6.01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Activities; *Annual Reports; Committees; Community Services; Cooperatives; Delivery Systems; Economic Development; Environmental Influences; Extension Education; *Federal Aid; Health; Housing; *Information Services; Land Grant Universities; Leadership; Manpower Development; Organizations (Groups); *Program Descriptions; Recreation; Research; *Rural Development; *Technical Assistance
IDENTIFIERS	*Department of Agriculture; Rural Development Committee

ABSTRACT

A consolidated summary of information submitted by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agencies and State Rural Development (RD) Committees, this sixth annual report on USDA information and technical assistance includes USDA organizational arrangements for rural assistance, some assessments, research supporting RD information and technical assistance, and RD delivery methods. Specifically, this report presents: (1) 1975 Highlights (a 50% emphasis upon environmental improvement and organization and leadership development; increased emphasis upon surveys and feasibility studies, workshops and meetings, and publications; increases in non-metropolitan population growth at a rate of 4.2% vs 2.9% for metro areas between 1970-73); (2) State Rural Development Committees (membership and organization, activities, statewide RD groups other than USDA); (3) Summaries of State-USDA RD Committee Activities; (4) Land Grant University Information and Technical Assistance; (5) RD Research (a new and separate section); (6) Program Areas (exemplary accomplishments presented by states for: community organization and leadership development; comprehensive planning; community services and facilities; housing; community health and welfare; manpower development; recreation and tourism; environmental improvement; business and industrial development; and rural cooperatives). (JC)

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Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year

1975

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS
(Pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d)
of the Agricultural Act of 1970)

RC009545

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

Today I am transmitting the sixth annual report on Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1975, pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d), of the Agricultural Act of 1970. This report outlines the key role of the Department in helping local people make rural America a better place to live and work.

I am happy to be able to report that, for the fourth consecutive year, the USDA agencies and State Cooperative Extension Services expanded their information and technical assistance to local communities, districts, and state planning and development groups. Assistance has increased by 72 percent over Fiscal Year 1971, the base year for which comparable figures are available.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Butz

EARL L. BUTZ
Secretary

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PREFACE

This is the sixth annual report to the Congress pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d), of the Agricultural Act of 1970. That section directs that:

> The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Congress a report not later than September 1 of each fiscal year reflecting the efforts of the Department of Agriculture to provide information and technical assistance to small communities and less populated areas in regard to rural development during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The first such annual report shall be submitted not later than December 1, 1970, covering the period beginning July 1, 1969, and ending June 30, 1970. The Secretary shall include in such reports to what extent technical assistance has been provided through land-grant colleges and universities, through the Extension Service, and other programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Although Section 901(d) requires reporting only the rural development (RD) information and technical assistance provided to small communities by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), this report continues the pattern of previous reports in exceeding this limited requirement. This and preceding reports have shown USDA organizational arrangements for delivery of such assistance through both unilateral and concerted efforts, some assessment of results accruing from assistance rendered, research that back-stops and supports RD information and technical assistance, and methods used in delivery. It is felt that these additions of input and output data are consistent with the congressional intent of Section 901(d).

Case examples from State Rural Development Committees and from agencies of the Department are presented to reflect a measure of results. No attempt has been made to aggregate output, however. The high risk of cause-effect assessments has discouraged this effort.

This report is limited to RD information and technical assistance and therefore excludes the technical and credit assistance provided for agricultural production and marketing, and for the construction, maintenance, and service of housing, community facilities, water control structures, and like projects. For instance, the primary function of the Farmers Home Administration is financing in three areas--farmer programs, community programs, and housing. USDA's information and technical assistance critically necessary prior to relevant individual and community decisions about such programs is discussed in this report; the maintenance assistance that becomes more important after a project has been implemented is not discussed.

By definition, usage, and interpretation, the heaviest demand for USDA information and technical assistance for RD is at the planning and initiation phases of community projects. Such assistance helps people in communities to better understand and articulate needs, issues, problems, and solutions, and to learn about resources available. This assistance provides a sounder basis for decisions and action. After the project is completed, maintenance assistance continues to be provided by USDA agencies.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTRODUCTION

Highlights

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Cooperative Extension Services assisted rural Americans with more than 180,000 different community projects in fiscal year 1975. The staff of the Department, through an unparalleled delivery system, reaching from the national to State and local levels, also conducted 44,000 feasibility studies and convened and conducted more than 100,000 workshops, conferences, and meetings relating to rural development.

These meetings were attended by key community leaders, public officials, and other interested citizens seeking help in finding solutions to their pressing community problems. In addition, publications and audio-visual presentations were used extensively in providing information to assist in resolving the problems of rural America and promoting a more balanced growth in this Nation.

Significant accomplishments were made in each of 10 concentrated program areas:

1. Organization and leadership development
2. Comprehensive planning
3. Community services and facilities
4. Housing
5. Health and welfare
6. Manpower development
7. Recreation and tourism
8. Environmental improvement
9. Business and industrial development
10. Rural cooperatives

All of these efforts are calculated to help community leaders push development ahead and make rural America a better place to live, work, and enjoy life.

For the fourth consecutive year, USDA and Extension expanded RD information and technical assistance to rural America, with 5,513 staff years expended in FY 1975, compared with 5,379 in FY 1974--a 2.5 percent increase (see table 1 and the chart on p. 5). See table 2 for a comparison of staff years devoted to RD information and technical assistance from FY 1970 through FY 1975. From FY 1971, the first year for which comparable figures are available, staff years devoted to RD have climbed from 3,200 to 5,513, an increase of 2,313 staff years, or a 72 percent improvement over the 4-year period.

Staff-year assistance increased in six program areas and declined in four areas from FY 1974 to FY 1975. The increases were in organization and leadership development, community services and facilities, community health and welfare, manpower development, recreation and tourism, and business and industrial development.

The relative emphasis of the 10 program areas remained about the same as in FY 1974, with environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continuing to be the areas with the largest USDA resource inputs. Those two areas accounted for close to 50 percent of the total. However, while staff years devoted to environmental improvement exceeded the corresponding measure for organization and leadership development by 46 percent in FY 1974, the difference narrowed to 14 percent in FY 1975.

Four of the "total" figures across the bottom of table 1 are up from FY 1974: staff years; surveys and feasibility studies; workshops, conferences, and meetings convened and conducted; and different publications prepared. Decreases were recorded in the other four "total" columns.

Of the total of 88 "cells" formed by table 1 (11 rows, 8 columns of figures), 37 show increases and 51 show decreases compared with FY 1974.

Introduction

Most USDA assistance is provided by State, area, and local RD committees, a system conceived in 1969. But a substantial part of the work is performed by individual USDA field workers, who may be members of one or more RD committees but who deliver information and technical assistance independently of the committee network and in coordination with representatives of other agencies to multi-county and local planning groups or citizens.

All 50 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have USDA-State RD committees. About 90 percent of the Nation's counties are served by either a county committee, an area committee or both. The entire area of 30 States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands is served by local RD committees. Again this year, this report features a section containing a short summary of overall State, regional and local committee membership, organization, and activities, plus another section containing statements which, in the opinion of the committees, best represent their achievements during FY 1975 and their plans, goals, and areas of emphasis for the future.

In 15 States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, RD is considered so important that statewide development groups have been formed by the Governor, the General Assembly, or other groups with statewide interest in RD. These groups usually have broad-based memberships and are related to USDA-State committees through interlocking memberships.

Included also in this report are the total efforts of Land-Grant Universities. The implementation of Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, the research and extension component of the Act, generated much interest on the part of Land-Grant Universities in expanding their contributions to RD during FY 1975. Recognizing that people want to know and understand development issues and alternatives, want the best information possible for decisionmaking, and want to have a voice in community decisions, the Land-Grant Universities are committed to the principle of generating and extending knowledge so that people are better able to take advantage of their opportunities.

For the first time, a separate section highlighting USDA RD research is included in this report.

There are examples from every State of accomplishments that improve social and economic conditions in rural areas. These appear in the 10 program area chapters.

This report is a consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and State RD Committees. A copy of the RD committee report for a specific State may be obtained by contacting the committee chairman for that State (see appendix A). The report was prepared under the overall guidance of the National Rural Development Committee, whose membership is given in appendix B. Information about statewide RD groups other than USDA groups is included in appendix C. Appendix D offers a quick index to where the various States and territories are mentioned in the report. Appendix E explains abbreviations frequently used throughout the report.

A "Novel" Change in Rural America

Before concluding this introductory section, it may be important to report a "novel"--and significant--change in the basic trends of population in rural areas. For the first time since the Great Depression years of the 1930's, recent figures do not show "more of the same."

A series of Economic Research Service studies indicate that nonmetropolitan population grew at a rate of 4.2 percent in the 1970-73 period, exceeding the 2.9 percent rate for metro areas. During the 1960's and in preceding decades, nonmetro areas experienced outmigration, but inmigration predominated in the early 1970's. There were only 600 declining-population nonmetro counties in 1970-73, compared with 1,300 in the 1960's. Decentralization of manufacturing is a major contributing cause. A second factor is the growth of recreation and retirement activities. Counties with senior State colleges and universities--particularly former teachers' colleges--have had important levels of growth in recent years. Equally important, over 150 counties have junior colleges and technical centers that provide skills needed in new and expanded plants.

Largely agricultural counties continued to decline from 1970 to 1973. But they have a population of only 400,000 and do not significantly affect the National nonmetro trend. The only group of nonmetro counties whose population decline accelerated after 1970 was those counties with 10 percent or more military population.

Finally, it is clear from polls and surveys that people say they would prefer to live in a rural area or a small town, usually within 30 miles of a city of at least 50,000. All of these changes profoundly affect the character of our rural areas and the type of information and technical assistance which will best serve the interests of the people concerned.

Table 1--Rural Development Information and Technical Assistance Provided by USDA, FY 1975

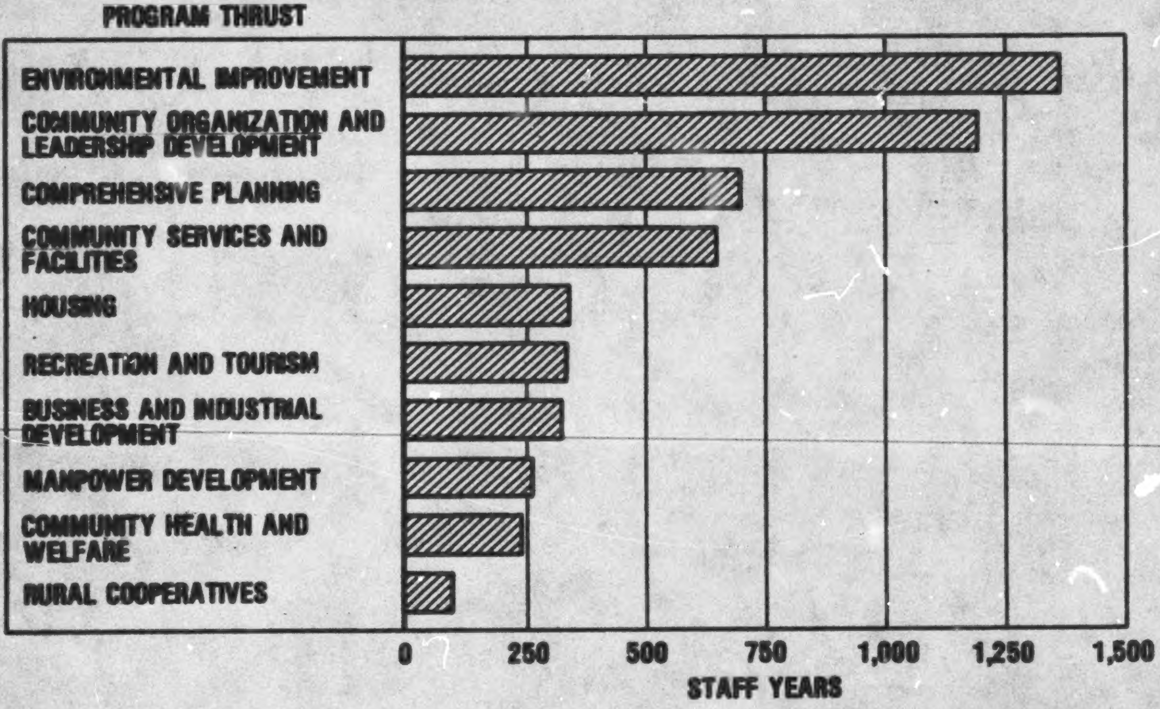
Program Area	Staff Years Expended	Projects Assisted	Surveys and Feasibility Studies	Workshops, Conferences, and Meetings		Publications (Newsletters, Bulletins, Fact Sheets)		Audio-Visual Presentations
				Convened and Conducted	Assisted 1/	Different Publications Prepared	Total Number Distributed	
Environmental Improvement	1,365	20,830	6,130	11,341	15,502	123,277	3,902,207	13,628
Organization and Leadership Development	1,195	63,115	2,858	42,567	26,562	49,459	2,695,519	12,510
Comprehensive Planning	700	28,586	17,791	10,967	33,013	23,041	1,628,156	4,508
Community Services and Facilities	650	811	9,458	11,027	16,440	74,261	1,717,693	5,625
Housing	338	909	2,002	6,307	7,506	34,781	835,975	5,171
Recreation and Tourism	336	514	2,282	4,421	7,317	30,875	1,311,419	4,306
Business and Industrial Development	328	570	1,582	3,302	5,826	61,306	1,284,180	2,371
Manpower Development	262	431	553	1,702	3,595	3,243	178,478	1,525
Health and Welfare	243	477	1,024	7,199	6,379	39,442	1,006,676	8,166
Rural Cooperatives	96	1,956	500	1,501	2,206	7,082	249,278	1,018
TOTAL	5,513	181,199	44,180	100,334	124,346	446,767	14,809,581	58,828

1/ If more than one agency assisted with the same meeting, some duplication may be involved.

Table 2--Staff Years of RD Information and Technical Assistance Provided by USDA, FY 1970-FY 1975

Fiscal Year	Staff Years	Change	Percent Change
1975	5,513	+ 134	+ 2.5
1974	5,379	+ 765	+ 17
1973	4,614	+ 313	+ 7
1972	4,301	+1,101	+ 35
1971	3,200	-----	----
1970	Not Computed	-----	----

STAFF YEARS DEVOTED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY USDA AGENCIES — FY 1975



STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Membership and Organization

All 50 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have State-USDA RD Committees. Nearly 90 percent of the Nation's counties are served by a county committee, an area committee or both. The map in the center spread of this report shows the location of the 2,199 county committees and 234 area committees.

The map also reveals that in 30 States, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the entire geographic area is represented by county committees, area committees, or both. In some other States, all geographic areas are covered except those around large metropolitan areas (New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, for instance.)

Most State Committees have enlarged their membership from the "core" USDA agencies to include representatives from other USDA agencies, other Federal agencies, State agencies (notably representatives of Governors' offices and planning departments), and citizen groups. There are 16 States with memberships of 20 or more; others have large numbers serving on task forces or subcommittees.

Again this year, State Committees expanded membership--by an overall total of about 30 members. There are more than 1,000 different persons serving on the 52 State RD Committees (tables 3 and 4). Additional members were drawn from each of the four categories of membership mentioned above.

Based on the averages, a typical State RD Committee has about 10 USDA members, 1 or 2 from other Federal agencies, 7 members from State agencies, and 2 representing other groups, for a total membership of 20.

The trend to expand the number of area (multicounty) substate committees, noted in the past three reports, was reversed in FY 1975. The number of area committees decreased to 234, a drop of 18 from FY 1974. The trend to fewer county committees also reversed, with 2,199 county committees reported this year, an increase of 59, or about 3 percent. Again, based on the average, a typical State has 4 or 5 area committees and 42 county committees.

Activities

For the first time, State Committees were asked to rank the 10 program areas according to the emphasis or attention given each by the Committee during FY 1975. Committees assigned a rank of "1" to the area receiving most emphasis and continued ranking in decreasing order other applicable areas--that is, those receiving substantial attention. The results of this priority ranking and weighting appear in table 5.

Committees in 38 States said comprehensive planning and land use policy was their first priority area. When all priorities were converted to a weighted index, this program area received a priority ranking double that of the next most emphasized area, organization and leadership development.

Organization and leadership development, in turn, received twice as high a priority ranking as the third priority area, community services and facilities.

The high priority assigned comprehensive planning is evident in the summaries of State-USDA RD Committee activities (next section of this report).

High recognition came to the Sumter County, Alabama, Rural Development Committee in FY 1975. This group received the USDA Distinguished Service Award. In previous years, the West Virginia, Alabama, Arizona, and North Carolina State Committees were similarly honored, as well as the Appanoose County, Iowa, and Lasalle Parish, Louisiana, committees.

Perhaps a fitting way to conclude this section is to quote the achievement citation accorded the Sumter Committee. Though specifically pertaining to the Sumter group, a similar accolade could be attributed to the other 2,198 county committees across the Nation. The citation read:

"For demonstrating that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make important contributions to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern."

Statewide RD Groups (Other Than USDA)

The need for strong action to promote RD has been recognized by many States. Seventeen States have formed committees that are analogous to the USDA RD committees and include representation from State and local government and private organizations. Important functions of all of the committees are communication and coordination with the USDA committees. Membership of each committee usually includes representation from the other. In Florida, for instance, the chairman of the USDA Committee for Rural Development is also chairman of the Florida Rural Areas Development Council.

In Iowa and Minnesota, RD committees have been established directly under the Office of the Governor; in other States, the committees are more loosely organized. In Puerto Rico and Colorado, the groups are involved in State planning to a significant degree, whereas counterparts elsewhere function in an advisory capacity.

In one State, Ohio, the USDA RD committee serves under the State Resource Development (RAD) Committee as an executive subcommittee for rural development. In the other 16 States, the USDA committee, though organized independently, coordinates its functions with those of the statewide RD group.

The 17 USDA committees that work with the "non-USDA" committees report that the coordination of parallel Federal, State, and local activities has increased the overall effectiveness of statewide RD efforts.

Table 3--Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1975

	Number of Members						
	USDA Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Citizens Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership	Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
Alabama 1/	8	1	8	2	19	0	67
Alaska	5	3	5	0	13	4	0
Arizona	20	11	56	10	97	0	3
Arkansas	14	0	3	0	17	8	75
California	9	1	6	4	20	0	0
Colorado 1/	9	5	12	8	34	12	0
Connecticut	8	3	7	1	19	0	0
Delaware	6	0	4	0	10	0	3
Florida 1/	9	2	9	2	22	0	65
Georgia	9	0	10	6	25	0	155
Hawaii	7	3	3	0	13	0	4
Idaho	9	2	3	0	14	0	42
Illinois	17	0	1	1	19	5	77
Indiana	10	2	7	0	19	18	0
Iowa 1/	9	1	3	0	13	3	100
Kansas	14	1	4	1	20	11	105
Kentucky 1/	8	0	3	1	12	12	98
Louisiana	15	1	13	2	31	0	60
Maine	7	0	4	0	11	2	7
Maryland	9	1	15	10	35	1	3
Massachusetts	16	0	1	0	17	3	0
Michigan 1/	8	0	2	0	10	1	20
Minnesota 1/	8	0	0	0	8	6	36
Mississippi	8	0	8	1	17	0	82
Missouri	9	4	9	1	23	20	0
Montana 1/	9	0	8	0	17	6	49
Nebraska	12	0	2	0	14	26	74
Nevada 1/	9	7	26	6	48	3	8
New Hampshire	9	0	3	0	12	0	0
New Jersey 1/	10	1	3	0	14	3	9
New Mexico	13	0	2	0	15	7	31
New York	7	0	4	0	11	10	0
North Carolina	6	0	10	3	19	0	100
North Dakota	9	0	2	0	11	3	49
Ohio 1/	9	0	2	0	11	4	84
Oklahoma	9	0	4	0	13	11	77
Oregon	8	2	5	3	18	14	0
Pennsylvania 1/	11	0	6	4	21	3	67
Puerto Rico 1/	8	0	3	0	11	5	73
Rhode Island	9	1	10	6	26	0	0
South Carolina 1/	9	0	5	1	15	0	0
South Dakota	13	0	3	0	16	6	53
Tennessee 1/	8	0	2	0	10	8	95
Texas	8	1	7	1	17	0	252
Utah	6	2	7	0	15	7	0
Vermont	8	1	6	0	15	5	0
Virgin Islands 1/	6	0	0	0	6	0	0
Virginia 1/	8	0	2	0	10	1	1
Washington	12	5	22	3	42	4	37
West Virginia	10	0	8	7	25	0	53
Wisconsin	8	5	13	21	47	2	62
Wyoming	16	3	15	0	34	0	23
TOTAL	501	69	376	105	1,051	234	2,199

1/ Also has another RD group--formed by the Governor, General Assembly, or other State official or office--with which USDA cooperates. See appendix C.

Table 4--Who Serves on Rural Development Committees

	No. of States Represented		No. of Members	
Members of State Committees	FY 1975	FY 1974	FY 1975	FY 1974
USDA Agencies, including Extension	[1]52	[1]52	501	461
Other Federal Agencies	25	28	69	75
State Agencies	50	47	376	309
Other University Members[2]	--	39	---	90
Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	24	22	105	87
		TOTAL	1,051	1,022
	No. of States		No. of Committees	
Sub-State Committees	FY 1975	FY 1974	FY 1975	FY 1974
Area (Multicounty)	33	36	234	252
County	37	35	2,199	2,140

[1] Including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

[2] Incorporated into State agency category in FY 1975.

Table 5--Program Priorities of State Rural Development Committees, FY 1975

Program Area	Number1/ of States Assigning Priority Ranking of				Weighted Index2/	Priority Rating
	1	2	3	4		
Comprehensive Planning & Land Use Policy	38	9	3	0	100	1
Community Organization & Leadership Development	11	14	11	2	51	2
Community Services & Facilities	0	10	12	4	26	3
Environmental Improvement	1	7	4	7	17	4
Housing	0	0	7	3	6	5
Business & Industrial Development	1	1	2	2	6	5
Manpower Development	0	2	2	1	5	7
Community Health & Welfare	0	2	1	2	4.5	8
Recreation & Tourism	0	0	2	2	2	9
Rural Cooperatives	0	1	0	1	2	9

1/Columns do not add to 52 because 1 State submitted no priority and some States gave only a first priority.

2/A priority ranking of 1 was assigned a weight of 10; a priority ranking of 2 was assigned 6; of 3, 3; and of 4, 1. Thus, comprehensive planning's priority ranking equals (38x10) + (9x6) + (0x1) = 443. The weighted index is based on a ratio of 443 = 100.

SUMMARIES OF STATE-USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ALABAMA

The Alabama-USDA Rural Development Council's philosophy emphasizes involvement of local people in planning and implementing projects and programs. It operates on the premise that the key to rural development is more than programs and funds; it is local people--their needs, interests, motivation, capabilities, involvement, and leadership.

The Council views its role as supportive and catalytic and serves important functions of communication and liaison with relevant groups and organizations, leaving development and related decisions to the rural farm and nonfarm families affected.

Since the Alabama Council's major effort is directed toward the involvement of local people, much of its energy is spent in promoting the organization and effective functioning of county RD committees. Such a citizens' group is operating in each of Alabama's 67 counties and is assisted and supported by USDA field personnel and by professionals from other public and private organizations. County Extension chairmen serve as secretaries to these county committees and their membership is broadly constituted, reflecting both geographic and socioeconomic interests. The 67 county RD committees serve as a forum for airing, investigating, and highlighting local needs and problems. They planned and are in the process of implementing 531 projects.

An important product of the State Council concept is improved communication and cooperation among those agencies and organizations which have responsibilities for rural-oriented programs. A climate of working together at the State level is important in promoting like cooperation among professionals on the area and county assignments.

The Council holds regular quarterly meetings and meets on call as necessary. At each meeting, member agencies bring any significant change in their RD program effort or responsibilities to the attention of other members. The effects upon the total effort in the State are discussed and plans are made to support the effort.

The Alabama-USDA RD Council is attempting to demonstrate that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make an important contribution to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern. If RD programs are to be most successful, this lesson must be learned by both professional workers and citizens at all levels.

ALASKA

The Alaska Rural Development Council gave top priority attention during FY 1975 to the need for sound land use planning and development. Major impacts have been caused by large land withdrawals and by construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Alaska's 375 million acres of land are undergoing tremendous changes in ownership. Over 200 native village corporations have selected 44 million acres of land authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The Act also authorizes reallocation of 80 million acres of public domain land into four new national systems. With the lifting of a land freeze, the State is again in the process of selecting up to 104 million acres under the Statehood Act. Critical decisions on land acquisition will dictate the destiny and economy of Alaska far into the future.

Eight of 12 regional native corporations have requested assistance in starting, or increasing, reindeer herd management. Reindeer ranching or a closely managed market-harvest of the caribou has a future in Alaska.

The pipeline impact has resulted in loan applications of over $100 million to REA for telephones and electrification of rural communities along the pipeline route. There is a large demand for FmHA housing and community facilities. Socioeconomic concerns are critical along the route.

ARIZONA

For FY 1975, the Arizona State Rural Development Committee chose two major objectives. One was to meet with communities in the State at their request; the other was to make a special effort to develop better understanding and working relations with the Councils of Governments.

The Committee felt that it could meet with about four communities during the year, and after the community had made a concerted effort, with lay involvement, to prepare a list of major problems needing attention. Two communities were visited during the year. The first meeting was held November 13, 1974, at Duncan in Greenlee County, a town of 800 people. The second meeting, on May 29, 1975, was at Winslow in Northeastern Arizona (Navajo County), a city of 8,000 people. Both communities expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the meetings.

Although it is too early to assess results, followup work has already occurred in the Duncan area. Based upon past experience, improvement is expected to continue over several years.

To improve working relations with the Councils of Governments, four meetings were held. The first was in Phoenix, with COG directors, at which time a decision was made to meet with all nonmetropolitan councils. Meetings with three of the four have already been held, and a meeting with the fourth is planned. It is obvious from these meetings that problems of misunderstanding have been clarified, and much better working relations, cooperation, and coordination will occur in the future.

ARKANSAS

The State Committee cosponsored a statewide conference entitled "Rural Development—Opportunities for Arkansas Counties." Each USDA State Director on the Committee participated on a panel, discussing "The Role of USDA in Rural Development."

The State Committee requested from the county USDA committees, via the district committees, a list of the needs, problems, or program areas, on a priority basis, on which some action might be taken to support RD. Each county committee was asked to identify, from the priority list, two or three needs or problems on which it might concentrate action in FY 1975. This information was sent to the district committees.

Each district USDA-RD committee summarized the county data and selected two or three areas of work on which the district committee could concentrate action in FY 1975. This information, along with the county data, was reported to the State Committee in a special meeting October 7, 1974.

In order to be of assistance to the district and county committees, the State Committee selected from the district reports the top two items and conducted eight district training conferences, one for each district committee and their respective county committees. The subjects discussed were land use planning and community facilities and services, including water, sewer, and solid waste.

CALIFORNIA

The State Rural Development Committee has continued to function as the California Rural Affairs Council. This Council continues to operate under the philosophy of voluntary participation by Federal, State, and private agencies. The basis for leadership lies with USDA agencies, including Extension. A number of other agencies have been instrumental in the success of the Council: the Commission for Economic Development, the Employment Development Department, and the Department of Food and Agriculture—all from the State—and the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

During the year, there was a change in State administration. Under the past administration, State agencies participated, if they desired, by concurrence of the Governor's Office. Up to this time procedures for continued participation have not been established by the new administration.

The Council has chosen to operate under a task force concept. As problems were presented to the Council, task forces were selected to respond. During the year, six such task forces were in operation: Geothermal, Rural Cooperatives, Land Use, Community Facilities, Pilot Rural Development Project and Training. Two task forces completed their work. The Geothermal Task Force, which was set up to evaluate a project referred to it by the Western Federal Regional Governments, concerned a project funded in Lassen County. The ultimate outcome was that the project was funded for $300,000—not necessarily because of the action of the Council, but the Council did contribute to the evaluation. The Task Force for Rural Cooperatives worked with the Title V group in developing a project. This project is now underway and involves work with approximately 50 low-income cooperatives in the State.

The task force set up to develop a pilot project in San Joaquin County has finished its work and is now developing a report. This has been deemed very successful, especially by the county itself. The county supervisors have asked that the project be discussed with the State Association of County Supervisors and that the model be extended to the other counties in the State for their use.

The Community Facilities Task Force has completed its report which will be presented to the total Council. The objective of this task force was to determine the need for community facilities within the counties. The Land Use Task Force is just beginning its work, as is the Training Task Force. It is hoped that the Training Task Force can develop a training session for the State sometime during 1976.

All in all, the year was one of the most active for the State Rural Development Committee.

COLORADO

The State Rural Development Committee continues to review A-95 proposals and act as liaison and support to the State's 13 area RD committees. Although the State Committee as a group was not involved in any specific communities or projects, a number of regional and local RD activities under the auspices of area committees were reviewed.

The Committee reviewed and provided advisory inputs relative to the Title V rural development project. The Committee received periodic update briefings on all activities pertaining to the Title V program.

The Committee continues to receive periodic briefings on land use related matters currently being dealt with by various State agencies.

The Committee has had several briefings on energy, energy uses, alternative energy sources, and shale oil and coal development.

The Vice Chairman has been keeping the Committee informed on implementation of the Rural Development Act, particularly activity relating to applications being processed for business and industrial loans.

The Committee sees itself primarily acting in coordinating and clearinghouse functions and attempts to facilitate communication of program development activity among and between State and Federal agencies within the State.

One area in which the Committee has recently been active is that of clarification of the role for the State Committee in relation to area committees. This clarification was requested by several area committees, which lead to a joint meeting in Denver of the State Committee with chairmen of the area committees in a day-long workshop.

This expression of role identification definition was in large part motivated by a recommendation made at the November 26, 1974, meeting of the State Committee:

> That county RD committees be re-established to provide more effective assistance to local officials in rural development, particularly in the implementation of H.B. 1041, National Land Use Thrusts, and the implementation of recent national legislation enhancing rural development. Since Cooperative Extension Service was given the responsibility by USDA to organize the RD committees, the

State Committee recommends that the county Extension directors call the USDA agency staff members in residence within the county for the purpose of organizing county RD committees. These committees are intended to supplement and to enhance the existing regional RD committees. Each state USDA agency director shall also inform his local agency representative of these procedures.

On December 12, 1974, the State Extension Director corresponded with each of the State's county Extension directors and area directors to apprise them of this recommendation. In this letter he reviewed Secretary's Memorandum No. 1667, dated November 7, 1969, in which the Extension Service was asked to provide leadership in organizing a State USDA Committee for Rural Development on a local basis through cooperation with State Committees.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 1975 devoted its time to four major areas of concern: community organization and leadership development, comprehensive planning and land use policy, community health and welfare, and environmental improvement.

The major effort in community organization and leadership development was the cosponsoring of a Governor's Seminar on Rural Development in cooperation with the Office of Federal/State Relations and the State Department of Finance and Control. The purpose of the seminar, as stated by the Governor, was to offer information on funding under the Rural Development Act of 1972 and to structure a coordinated approach to rural development in Connecticut by State, regional, and local decisionmakers.

In comprehensive planning and land use policy, Committee members continued to serve on, or be technical advisors to, the Governor's Committee on Preservation of Agricultural Land. This Committee is now in the process of assisting the Connecticut Board of Agriculture in the development of criteria for land that should be preserved.

Community health and welfare, although primarily a concern of the Cooperative Extension Service under Title V of the Rural Development Act, has had the wholehearted support and guidance of the Committee.

Environmental improvement continued to receive attention, primarily through cooperation with the environmental impact teams that have been developed as interagency efforts on the part of all agencies in the State, both Federal and State, concerned with the environment.

During FY 1976, the Committee will continue its work with environmental improvement, the delivery of health care services, and the development of criteria on the preservation of agricultural land. In addition, the Committee will develop a directory of specific services applicable and available to Connecticut.

Because of the highly organized nature of this State, the member agencies on the Committee often work directly with municipal and local planning and zoning groups, regional planning agencies, industrial commissions, and State agencies.

The Committee will continue to be devoted to being aware of what is being carried on by each member in determining how work may be supplemented and complemented through joint efforts. During this next year this complementary factor will receive top priority.

DELAWARE

The Delaware USDA Resource Development Committee was organized for the basic purpose of helping individuals and communities in the nonmetro areas of the State to improve their overall quality of living. The objectives of the Committee are:

(1) Development of economic opportunities.
(2) Improvement of community organization and leadership.
(3) Effective use of government programs and services.
(4) Increased effectiveness of educational efforts.

It is quite clear to the Committee that community and resource development programs must be conducted in close cooperation with State and local agencies, if these programs are to be effective. One of the main goals of the Committee is to encourage State and local agencies to understand and use the services of Federal agencies in the overall development of rural Delaware. As in previous years, most of the emphasis of the 1975 Committee meetings was on the development of cooperative programs with State agencies so that rural Delaware would be better served by a combination of Federal, State, and local programs.

In FY 1976, major emphasis will continue to be given to the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project, which includes all three counties in the State. Local people, with considerable assistance from county resource development committees, have submitted numerous proposals which have become a part of the State project plan. Among those to be given special emphasis are: assisting in the preservation of prime agricultural land, improving community facilities, encouraging industrial development, improving drainage and controlling flooding, developing public recreation facilities, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and promoting better woodland management.

State and county committees will do all possible to assist local, State, and Federal agencies in developing and implementing the various project proposals as outlined in the State RC&D Plan.

FLORIDA

A conference on land use planning probably was one of the most important achievements of Florida's USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 1975. The Committee felt that many of the agencies and organizations involved in land use planning were unaware of the role, responsibilities, and activities of other agencies and groups throughout the State. The conference was a joint undertaking of the Committee, the Florida Rural Area Development Council and the directors of the 10 State planning districts. A composite committee from these three groups planned the program.

One of the objectives of the conference was clarification of current issues and policies. A keynote address from the director of the Division of State Planning helped set the stage.

A major objective of the conference was to broaden perspectives and understanding of each agency's roles and competencies. A panel discussion by five directors of planning districts gave personnel from other agencies an opportunity to see the problems faced at the local level in implementing land use planning and the opportunities for participation by Federal and State agencies. A panel of representatives from concerned State agencies enlightened the group on interrelationships between local and State planning and the assistance being provided by State agencies. The third panel of representatives of five USDA agencies concentrated on role and responsibility of USDA and its State and county personnel.

GEORGIA

The Georgia State Rural Development Committee was relatively inactive during FY 1975 for a number of reasons. Among these are the following: (1) the chairman's responsibilities with the Cooperative Extension Service were changed, (2) the secretary resigned from his position and therefore from the committee, and (3) disappointment over what was felt to be inadequate funding of the Rural Development Act was evident. During the year, a survey was made of a sample of county RD committees concerning the role of the State Committee. The results should improve the effectiveness of the State group. The land use subcommittee has developed an educational package on land use and has a well-defined delivery system in effect.

HAWAII

As a result of initiative taken by the Hawaii State Rural Development Committee, a much closer working relationship is being established between the committee and the Office of the Governor. This relationship is important to assure that the technical assistance and organizational ability of the member agencies are brought to bear on problems of major importance to the State, such as the preservation and utilization of agricultural and conservation lands and the encouragement of more young residents of Hawaii to become established as diversified farmers.

The Committee has considered and made appropriate recommendations on legislation relative to the taxation of agricultural lands according to its productive capabilities and broadening the scope of existing laws relative to the qualifications of young men to become eligible for new farmer loans.

Assistance has been given on a continuing basis to task forces working on the problems facing transitional communities that are phasing out of sugar and pineapple production. These task forces, working with the Governor's Office and various departments of State government, regularly seek technical expertise available from USDA agencies.

The greatest benefit, however, arising from continuing and regular RD Committee meetings is the rapport and close working relationships that have been built up and continue to exist between all member agencies.

IDAHO

Passage of the most significant piece of land use legislation since the late 1920's highlighted activities in Idaho rural development during FY 1975. The work of State and local USDA agencies during the past several years contributed to this successful development.

The Committee developed a USDA plan of work to guide land use planning in Idaho. The Idaho USDA-RDC was formally designated as the coordinating unit for USDA policy development on land use in Idaho and county USDA-RDC's were designated to perform the same kind of role at the county level.

The Committee recruited and sponsored four delegates to the Fifth National Rural Development Leaders School conducted by the Rural Development Service (RDS) in April 1975 at Boulder, Colo.

Most of the Committee's members also serve in an advisory capacity to Idaho's Title V project. The problem under study is one of analyzing the interdependence of small farms and small towns to provide a better understanding of the economic and social structure within sectors of rural communities. The study areas consist primarily of the irrigated agriculture portions of Jerome and Gooding counties and include the communities of Wendell and Jerome. A questionnaire has been designed to collect information on the social structure and attitudes related to the small farmers in these areas.

The Committee has succeeded in enlarging representation by adding a regular member from the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Commissions.

The Committee has been highly successful in coordinating the efforts of individual agencies and improving communications among agencies. The Committee plans to continue these efforts in FY 1976.

ILLINOIS

The State Rural Development Committee provided leadership in organizing and conducting a Rural Development Conference for 20 western Illinois counties. The conference was designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas between individuals and agencies interested in making their communities better places in which to live and work. The major focus was on local government, land use, agriculture, human services, and recreation and tourism.

The State Committee organized a seminar with the Illinois participants of the National Rural Development Schools held at Lincoln, Nebr., and Urbana, Ill. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of making the Illinois RD program more effective. Several suggestions were made to improve communications between organizations.

The State Committee met with the assistant to the director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, regarding Section 208 of the Federal Water Quality Act Amendment, PL 92-500. He reviewed the basic concept of Section 208 and briefly covered the three applications for Section 208 planning money in Illinois. He stated that public participation is required by the law. He suggested that the Committee meet with each of the three designated planning agencies and discuss the implications for rural communities and agriculture and the plans for public participation. A productive meeting was held with the Greater Egypt Planning Commission in Southern Illinois regarding plans for solving coal mine-generated water pollution problems. A meeting has also been scheduled with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission regarding Section 208 planning for the industrial and urban area of Northeastern Illinois.

INDIANA

Major activities of the Indiana Rural Development Committee related directly to land use in FY 1975.

On November 19, 1974, a statewide seminar was held relating to flood plain management and flood insurance, sponsored by the Committee and two State agency members, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the State Planning Services Agency. Over 125 people representing local leaders throughout the State attended.

As a result of the seminar, the Indiana Flood Plain Management Act, Public Law 123, and the Federal flood insurance program are better understood by local leaders. Smaller workshop sessions were held in several communities as a result of the State seminar.

In late FY 1975, Indiana's regional RD committees were realigned to coincide with the recently established 18 State planning regions.

Through an agreement between the Committee and the State Planning Services Agency, RD is recognized on a regional planning basis. The chairman of each regional RD committee attends the applicable regional plan commission meetings and the executive director of each regional plan commission attends the applicable regional RD committee meetings.

IOWA

The Iowa Committee focused its efforts almost totally on land use policy during FY 1975. Six 1-day area workshops were conducted to increase awareness and understanding of the implications of land use policy among USDA agency middle management and county staff. All State Committee agencies were involved and represented among the 450 who participated. Agency heads climaxed workshops with a "charge" setting forth responsibility of USDA agency personnel serving on county RD committees to develop specific plans of work to accomplish increased understanding by, and involvement of, local leaders and organizations in land use planning.

On April 3, the State Committee sponsored a 1-day workshop for community and organization leaders to examine issues in land use planning. Workshop sessions dealt with a variety of RD concerns, such as sediment control, local land use planning, outdoor recreation development, rural water systems, community betterment, business and industrial development, community facilities, emergency medical services, and rural housing. Two hundred persons participated.

KANSAS

Organization of State, regional, and county USDA RD committees has resulted in expanded RD activities by USDA agencies in Kansas. During FY 1975, each committee developed and implemented its annual plan of work based on its analysis of local problems.

Committees have emphasized coordination with, and assistance to, city, county, and regional planning commissions. USDA committees have informed themselves of planning commission activities and programs and have attempted to coordinate programs.

Training of USDA staff members has received continual emphasis. A series of 6 training schools on the Flood Disaster Protection Act was attended by 239 persons, most of them USDA personnel. Many county USDA committees, working with planning commission representatives when appropriate, followed up by contacting all city and county officials in their counties to inform them about the flood insurance program.

A soil erosion and sedimentation educational program was the most comprehensive effort supported by USDA committees. An educational committee composed of representatives of different organizations and agencies coordinated the program. State, area, and county committees were organized to deliver the message. Seventeen fact sheets on different subjects were prepared. Estimates were that 22,000 people in all counties were involved.

Improved coordination by USDA agencies is being accomplished at all levels.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Development Committee (KDC) during FY 1975 lost the elected chairman to a transfer out of the State. The interim of time necessary to select a new chairman and for him to become functional changed some time tables of planned activities.

Activities concerning land use planning were curtailed because of the lack of Federal legislation and the perceived slow proceedings in implementing State land use planning laws. Aspects of land use planning continued to have a high priority of the Committee.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, it appeared the energy crisis would adversely affect agriculture. The Committee acted to cooperate with regulatory agencies, become aware of policies, and stand by to assist where necessary. Fortunately, to date, no large problems have developed and minor needs have been corrected.

The Committee worked to improve the flow of communications between State, district, and local development groups and to encourage organization of groups in each county. Feeling that RD to a large degree must be done on the local level, the Committee has directed efforts to make ideas, expertise, and needed materials available to local groups. The KDC steering committee met with district agency committee chairmen and discussed liaison and communications.

A free flow of ideas through exchange of minutes, visits of members to other groups, and other means often provides the catalyst necessary to start and move various development projects.

LOUISIANA

The State Rural Development Committee achievements can be summarized in five areas of emphasis:

1. The Committee and the Louisiana Department of Public Works cooperated in coordinating working relationships between planning districts and parish RD committee members. This effort was accomplished through a series of training meetings involving members of the planning districts and parish RD committee members.

2. In order to strengthen land use planning educational efforts of USDA agencies in Louisiana, a special land use planning working subcommittee of the State Committee was set up. A list of goals relating to land use planning in Louisiana is being established. Small task forces will be assigned to develop educational programs and a set of recommendations to attain each goal.

3. The State Committee cooperated with the Governor in a statewide clean-up campaign. Where possible, efforts have been made to spur interest in solid waste disposal systems.

4. The State Committee supported a series of training meetings for the purpose of providing technical information to parish RD committees on Federal, State, and local governmental commitments to RD.

5. The State Committee supported the Northeast Louisiana Water Resource Development and Management Project in 11 parishes. The project is under the leadership of the RD committees of these parishes. The project is also being conducted in cooperation with the State Department of Public Works, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Corps of Engineers, State Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Louisiana Water Resource Research Institute.

MAINE

The Maine State-USDA Rural Development Committee does not itself function as an action group in carrying out as a committee specific RD projects and activities. It provides assistance when requested and coordination when required by area and county RD committees. The latter provide the direct service to local groups in carrying out specific RD projects and activities.

Activities in which one or more agencies represented on the State, area, or county committees have been involved include: small community and regional planning, land use planning, improving rural housing, stabilizing coastal land, improving small town sewer and water systems, expanding rural telephone service, improving management of woodland and utilization of forest products, increasing commercial and home food production, integrated pest management, erosion control, and approved use of sewage sludge--all of which have been noted in minutes of quarterly meetings of the Committee.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Rural Affairs Council (MRAC) continues to deliver RD assistance primarily through State-level program coordination, land use programs, and assistance to local and regional groups.

Coordination. The Coastal Zone Management Group from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has come before the Council to explain the thrust of this new program. MRAC agencies with material interest in this aspect of RD were quick to provide input into the program. The Coastal Zone Group keeps the entire Council advised as plans are formulated and educational meetings conducted.

The Maryland Environmental Service also met with the Council, providing information concerning their plans to implement the Water Quality Act in Maryland. The Council assisted in coordination by recommending candidates to serve on local and statewide planning advisory boards. This will help increase agricultural/rural input into the program.

Land Use. Council members have served on a statewide committee on preservation of agricultural land whose recommendations were ultimately transformed into a bill which is currently being studied in the State Legislature. The Council also plans to sponsor a series of statewide multicounty land use education programs for USDA and State agency personnel to help make them more adroit at dealing with this issue.

Assistance to Local and Regional Groups. The Council has agreed to furnish a resource person to the Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay, a group dedicated to formulating a "Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" for the Bay region. The MRAC designee serves on the group's technical advisory committee.

MRAC also has provided information to a citizens group in St. Mary's County on the Administration's energy policy to help them in their decisionmaking concerning refinery location and offshore oil exploration.

Information and assistance is furnished to the Delmarva Peninsula's Economic Development District, the Delmarva Advisory Council, as new developments and informational meetings concerning the Regional Rail Reorganization Act are made known.

Although coordination, land use programs, and local and regional assistance will continue to be areas of emphasis, the Council is prepared to adjust its priorities as the need arises.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Committee functioned effectively during FY 1975 in its liaison-information capacity. The Committee has worked hard on providing leadership to the rural and community development concerns of the Commonwealth. At the last Committee session of the year, the new State Commissioner of Agriculture described the proposed activities of his office and commented on the need for a "tight" working relationship with USDA agencies. With this in mind, a subcommittee was appointed to select the pertinent State agency heads to be added to the Committee.

Land use is surfacing as a primary concern of many State agencies. The vital place of this topic in determining the future of Massachusetts agriculture and community development in both the rural and the more populated areas makes it of high priority. Both the commodity value aspects of land and the resource value aspects need to be recognized for their full potential, especially in a State like Massachusetts, where:

- 5.7 million people live on 5 million acres of land.
- The urban influence permeates the entire State through the institutions of banking, education, government, and the media.
- Two-thirds of the State is forested and another 20 percent is farm and open land.
- Farm production continues to be an essential element of the economy.
- Land use policy must be identified and established so that productive farm lands, forests, shore lands, marshes, and wetlands can be preserved for their highest and best uses, and the uses of land for recreation, greenbelts, and development be planned for and integrated with other uses.
- Strong citizen support from the non-land-owning segment of the population can be marshaled in the interests of rural development and preservation of rural lands for agriculture, forest, recreation, and open space values. This support can supplement and even exceed that generated by rural interests.

The Committee will largely focus its efforts in this direction.

MICHIGAN

The major USDA Rural Development Committee activities in FY 1975 were:

1. Developing a Committee position on land use.
2. Planning for a rural leadership workshop.
3. Evaluating the desirability of regional rural development committees.
4. Improving cooperation and communication among USDA agencies, State agencies, and planning district officials.

The Governor reorganized the Michigan Council on Rural Development. Through the leadership of the new chairman, the Council is now active and viable and the USDA RD Committee and the Michigan Council on RD are tied together through cross-representation.

The Committee believes it is appropriate to gear its activities to be compatible with those of the Council. Committee members served on various study committees of the Council and contributed to developing Council policy and procedures. It is the goal of the Council and the Committee not to duplicate efforts, but to coordinate activities to gain maximum benefit from the total input of the two.

The Committee has discussed the desirability of holding a rural leadership workshop in cooperation with the Council. A planning committee has been named and is currently investigating means of funding the workshop.

A regional RD committee has been organized in Northeastern Michigan (lower peninsula). The regional committee has been effective in improving communications between USDA agencies, planning district staff, and local government; and in improving delivery of USDA agency programs to local people. The Committee is currently evaluating the opportunity, feasibility, and desirability of creating additional regional committees.

The Committee has continued to meet every other month. Each participating agency representative has discussed his agency's goals and significant programs. This has encouraged improved communication between Committee members.

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota State Committee's major effort during FY 1975 was reviewing the status of land use activity in the State, assessing the Committee's own role, and studying organizational plans for implementing a USDA land use program through the RD committee structure.

The review and study process accounted for the majority of the year's activities. The implementation phase begins in FY 1976 and will take most of the Committee's time. Informational meetings will be conducted for USDA and non-USDA agency personnel.

The support role of the State Committee in this expanded effort will also receive considerable attention. The Committee believes the local committees cannot function properly without adequate and responsive, prompt support.

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Rural Development Committee appointed a subcommittee to look into the possibilities of selecting a small geographic area to do some concerted RD work. The subcommittee was functioning when Title V was funded. Representatives of the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station met with the State RD Committee to get assistance in selecting the geographic area and gain support for the programs to be undertaken under Title V. The Committee assisted in identifying a three-county area, and the committee moved that the counties--Calhoun, Grenada, and Yalobusha--represent the geographic area for the three-year Pilot

Rural Development Program under the provisions of Title V. The action of the Committee served as the final input in selecting the geographic area. When all considerations concerning the advantages and disadvantages of all possible combinations were completed, it was concluded that a combined three-county target area provided the greatest opportunities for economic and human development as envisioned under Title V. The Committee reiterated its intentions to jointly sponsor the RD pilot program.

The Committee, being interested in providing better services and assistance to county committees, needed more information relative to RD programs and projects in the counties. County committees were requested to provide the State Committee with a plan of action for each program or project to be undertaken by the county committee during 1975. Subject matter areas selected by county committees included: Community services and facilities, marketing facilities, housing, forestry programs, erosion control, recreation and parks, drainage, industrial parks, pasture improvement, environmental improvement and education, flood prevention, health and family living, job opportunity, agriculture enterprises, landscape, planning, vegetable production, agency understanding, pesticide container, and soil survey.

MISSOURI

The State Rural Development Committee has continued to function as a policymaking and advisory group. The Committee sees its major responsibility as identifying and encouraging a cooperative or joint approach to RD efforts by two or more agencies or groups. Specific actions are attributed in most instances to the agencies involved rather than to RD as a separate entity.

Positive actions include the formation of a land use policy committee responsible for leadership in recommending activities and legislation information in education, technical services, and cost-sharing programs. The Committee is responsible for broad program needs of State government and for communication with State agencies.

Another forward step was the organization of a plan of work committee. The committee's work will include developing recommendations concerning the State Committee's role in the agricultural use of waste water, possible reinforcement in assistance to regional RD committees, and other ideas from members of the Committee.

The devotion of time and effort to the free exchange of ideas and information between Committee members has greatly improved interagency communications and resulted in better, speedier, and more efficient support for local development efforts.

MONTANA

Beginning in 1971, the membership of the Montana USDA CRD Committee began a major effort to build a grass-roots approach to rural development. Leadership was provided by the Extension Service. Six area committees and 49 county committees (the latter covering 56 counties) were established. Rural Development situation statements were prepared by county committees, and county goals and objectives were outlined by the counties.

Since 1971, the chairmanship of the Committee has rotated through the Extension Service, FmHA, ERS, and Forest Service. This has been done because the incumbent State directors of these and the other USDA agencies have difficulty devoting time to State-USDA CRD activities.

The active role on land use planning and regional and district organization has been delegated to local county committees.

To increase continuity, a permanent secretary for the Committee is being provided by the Extension Service beginning in FY 1976.

Recent Montana State legislation concerning required local (city or county) approval prior to the subdivision of rural agricultural lands (H.B. 666 - Vincent Amendment) appears to be a step that will be of some assistance in the land use planning process. This State legislation appears to establish a framework whereby local CRD committees may be able to adequately discuss the pros and cons of good agricultural land use in connection with proposed subdivisions and/or other changes in land use. Area committeemen have also recently reaffirmed the value (as a working tool) of county CRD situation statements. These will continue to be maintained and updated on an as-needed basis. Currently, emphasis is primarily being concentrated in strengthening USDA State-area-county communications, and the inter-relationships of these and State agencies.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Committee functions as a coordinating body bringing together the many diverse interests and resources available for RD. It:

1. Provides guidance to the county and area committees as they work on areas of emphasis selected at the local level.
2. Organized five middle management RD committees to take advantage of the organizational structures of each of the agencies.
3. Reviewed county and area committee plans of work and reports.
4. Held an outstate meeting of the State Committee in Bassett with the Area 24 committee.

The Committee also functions as a forum for discussing rural problems and opportunities. During the year, land use received particular emphasis. More specifically, the committee:

1. Attended the Plains Region Workshop on Land Use held in Omaha in September.
2. Appointed a land use task force which has prompted land use discussion at Committee meetings, and conducted a survey of land use programs.
3. Invited two State senators to discuss land use legislation at two meetings of the State Committee.

In the year ahead, the Nebraska Committee plans to continue to function as a forum for discussion of rural problems, and a coordinating body bringing together the many diverse interests and resources available for rural development.

NEVADA

One of the most significant efforts and achievements of the State Committee during FY 1975 was expanding RD into programs of the Nevada Resource Action Council. The Council is an association of about 30 Federal and State agencies and University of Nevada-Reno personnel interested in agriculture and resource management and development.

Previously, there was a separate RD Committee composed primarily of USDA agencies. With the consolidation of this activity within the Resource Action Council as a subcommittee operating under the Council, the same functions are being carried on with expanded expertise.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

During FY 1975, the State Committee had a profitable visit with the USDA Assistant Secretary for Rural Development. His visit to New Hampshire provided Committee members with the benefit of a first-hand report on RD at the national level. Members also had an opportunity to provide the assistant secretary with additional background about the socioeconomic concerns of New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Resource Development Executive Committee has a continuing major leadership role to play within the State. In addition, it serves as a mechanism for channeling information and technical assistance to individuals and rural communities through the State and Federal member agencies.

The Committee will continue to focus on the broad area of land use, which, in a State with limited land resources and a burgeoning population, will continue to be a major issue in the forseeable future.

Further, the chairman is circulating, among all committee members, the list of suggested program areas for FY 1975. This listing will provide a basis for establishing priorities in FY 1976.

Although the State Committee reports joint activity in only one major program area for FY 1975, all members agree it continues to perform a major function as a communication link. The regular quarterly meetings provide a means of information exchange that enhances day-to-day interagency cooperation. The membership feels that the Committee is well worthwhile and looks forward to its future deliberations.

In addition, the Committee will be looking into the broad area of industrial development and the socioeconomic and environmental ramifications thereof. This is particularly important at this time since some major developments are under consideration in the State.

NEW JERSEY

One of the most outstanding achievements as a Committee was the development and distribution of over 400 packets of material on "USDA Services on Land Use Planning in New Jersey." Materials were obtained from USDA agencies, Cooperative Extension Service, Cook College-Rutgers University, and State agencies concerned with land use. Materials were distributed to planners, municipal officials, freeholders, and environmental commissioners through the county and area resource development committees.

Another noteworthy achievement was the planning, promotion, and implementation of a statewide rural resources development conference entitled "Rural Development-How to do It." The Under Secretary of Agriculture discussed national progress in RD and a New Jersey Congressman presented the congressional viewpoint. A discussion panel then expressed the role of FmHA, Extension Service, and the local bank in implementing a RD program in Hunterdon County.

NEW MEXICO

FY 1975 brought some accomplishments and the future looks bright. During the year, the New Mexico RD Committee established cooperation and coordination between and among member and nonmember agencies, and organizations became stronger. The Committee believes strongly in keeping close ties. To do this, the Committee continues to restrict its membership to those USDA agencies included in the Secretary's Memorandum on State committees, with the exception of the one spot allowed to State government, the State planning office.

For purposes of RD communication, cooperation, and coordination, the Committee has successfully identified those agencies with the needed expertise and has been able, thus far, to tap their resources.

Of particular importance has been the ability of this Committee to coordinate its efforts with institutions of higher learning for purposes of rendering more effective services to the State's rural communities. Also, through its counterparts (district and county committees), the Committee coordinates its efforts more efficiently and effectively.

All the activities undertaken in FY 1975 are of a continuous nature; however, the Committee feels satisfaction that much was accomplished. Some of the projects will be completed in FY 1976.

NEW YORK

The New York State Community Development Committee has, via a series of regional meetings, sought to improve interagency cooperation in assisting rural communities. By having rural leaders present the problems, needs, and aspirations of their communities, the Committee has been able to array the problems of rural communities in their proper context. It is hoped that agencies will become more aware of the comprehensive nature of their problem and work cooperatively to develop more effective approaches.

As a result of its involvement in the National Rural Development Leaders School and subsequent discussions with the school's participants, the Committee as a whole is more aware of the need for effective rural leadership, and has made positive steps in this area.

Finally, despite a recent period of reduced activity resulting from the change in the State administration in Albany, the Committee is actively restructing its membership and reestablishing its objectives.

This opportunity to restructure the Committee and redirect its efforts, combined with the sincere interest of State agencies to be involved in jointly seeking approaches to the problems of our rural communities, promises to make both the Committee and its member agencies more effective in assisting the communities and residents of rural New York State.

NORTH CAROLINA

The State Rural Development Committee focused on coastal zone management and improving environmental quality, health care, and housing in FY 1975. A "Coastal Zone Management Packet," including a slide-tape program, four new publications, and six recently prepared land use planning publications to improve the management and use of coastal resources and guide future development, was prepared. A copy of the slide-tape program was provided each county and primary State agency involved. Numerous workshops and local meetings were held and information and professional counsel were provided to the Coastal Resources' Commission. An estimated 25,000 copies of educational materials were distributed. Efforts to provide educational information and technical assistance to improve land use planning and guide community growth continued. Primary leadership was provided in planning and conducting 8 workshops on sedimentation pollution control for some 1,800 representatives of local government, contractors, developers, engineers, architects, members of county RD panels, and other local leaders. Thirty local ordinances on sedimentation control have been adopted.

A slide-tape program and 16 millimeter film on rural health centers to provide primary health care were completed and are being shown to local groups. Assistance is being provided a pilot county in preparing a county health directory to serve as a model for other counties.

The publication "Rural Housing Site Planning," which received two national awards, was completed and distributed to local and State leaders, agencies, and groups. Improving home energy conservation and local building codes were emphasized.

NORTH DAKOTA

The efforts of the State Committee were directed to four main emphasis areas:

1. Training of community and State leaders of RD by encouraging attendance at RD training seminars.
2. Promotion of land use planning through development of slide-tape programs for local community use.
3. Development of the objectives for RD and implementation of the action plan on the local level.
4. The use of the State-Federal "RIM" system, a uniform and

suitable tool for inventorying, classifying, and maintaining resource data. This actually is the first step in interdisciplinary planning.

OHIO

The major aim of the USDA Committee for Ohio Rural Development is to provide the opportunity for sufficient interagency communication so that the delivery systems of the various agencies involved can be effectively used to help local citizens as they make and implement community decisions. This includes development of activities that: (1) assure that communication channels will be as open as possible and (2) have been the result of mutually defined objectives. Much of the ongoing programs and coordination is accomplished through subcommittees at both the State and local levels.

Active State subcommittees are dealing with: (1) land use development, (2) community facilities and services development, and (3) improving liaison with local committees.

The pilot project for community development, called I 70/77, and the special project resulting from the passage of the Rural Development Act, called GROW (Generating Rural Ohio Wealth), served as focal points for certain of the statewide activities. County interagency groups developed communications and programs centered around locally identified problems. Materials and suggestions prepared by the State Committee were distributed to local committees, mainly through middle-management interagency groups.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 1975 appointed ad hoc committees to investigate and report on the specific problem areas of: (1) energy and critical materials and (2) land use planning. The committees were composed of personnel from selected agencies represented on the State RD Committee. The land use planning committee has been made a full-time committee to follow the progress of land use legislation and its implementation.

During each RD meeting, the members of each agency give a brief review of current activities within their agency. This discussion is designed to build communications liaison, cooperation, coordination, and understanding of the several Federal-State programs which assist in meeting problems. During the third quarter of FY 1975, each agency presented an indepth discussion of its organization, functions, and responsibilities.

The area and county RD committees and the county development councils have been the direct action groups. Specific actions have been attributed in most instances to the area and county committees and councils or to the agencies involved rather than to the State Committee. This does not result in much recognition for the State Committee, but lets people at the local level solve their problems with minimal guidance, policymaking, and supervision from the State level.

OREGON

The Oregon State Rural Development Committee is comprised of members of all USDA agencies plus representatives of other Federal agencies, including HEW, HUD, BLM, and Commerce. In addition, the Committee has members from the State's Governor's Office; the Economic Development, Planning, Forestry, and Education Departments; and the Water Resources Board.

The RD concept in Oregon has developed communication, liaison, cooperation, and coordination among the many agencies. Evolving are concerted efforts to resolve problems with a minimum of duplication. The effort has provided and is providing a method of tying together the agencies at the State level. The same development has occurred between field personnel in each of our counties and communities.

It is our goal to provide through this delivery system technical and educational services to the people of the State on a coordinated basis, the end result being a more sophisticated, comprehensive program to solve the economic, social, and physical problems in our rural areas.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Rural Development Committee's highlights of FY 1975 are: (1) expansion, (2) cooperation, and (3) program planning.

1. In an effort to expand the scope and breadth of the Committee, members were added from several State and regional agencies, the State Grange, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce. The 21 members now represent Pennsylvania's most potent agencies and organizations with a concern for the rural areas of the State.
2. Expansion has meant cooperation. Realizing that more can be accomplished with the aid of the many non-USDA agencies and ogranizations in Pennsylvania, an active effort was made to work with and through these groups. Three of the Committee's meetings during FY 1975 were held with the boards of regional planning and development commissions. Problems of mutual concern were discussed and solutions explored. Local RD committees were included in these sessions. The Committee met in Indiana County with local leaders involved with Pennsylvania's Title V project to explore ways of tackling their rural problems.
3. The State Committee surveyed the local RD committees to find out what they perceived to be their major rural problems. The problem areas listed in the order in which they were mentioned are: (1) land use, zoning, loss of agricultural land, and taxation; (2) sewage, solid waste, and pollution; (3) housing; (4) transportation; (5) rural health delivery; (6) unemployment; (7) industrial development; and (8) recreation and adult education.

As a result of the survey, a series of regional land use conferences is planned for FY 1976. These will be held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Office of State Planning and Development. During the past 2 years, this office has made a comprehensive study of the State's land use problems and has compiled a lengthy and detailed report which will be summarized and taken to the public.

Regarding the sewage problems of small communities, the Committee has met with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to examine ways lagoons might replace more costly sewage treatment plants.

A housing committee has been appointed to investigate ways of making economical housing available to rural residents. As a result of one trip to West Virginia, one or two low-cost housing demonstrations are planned for FY 1976.

PUERTO RICO

The State Rural Development Committee emphasized community organization and leadership development during FY 1975. The Committee was conscious of the importance of giving assistance and supervision to the regional RD committees in leadership development. The Committee was interested and gave assistance to the Title V project in the isolated community of Cerro Gordo in Aguada. They asked for monthly progress reports of work being done under Title V. In their followup work to this project, they made recommendations to solve community problems.

The Committee made possible the research and extension Service coordination in the Title V area. One of the regular monthly meetings of the Committee was held in Cerro Gordo. Committee members had the opportunity to listen and to observe the felt needs of the people.

During FY 1975, the Committee emphasized land use policy. The chairman appointed a land use subcommittee which made recommendations to the State Planning Board.

Special attention was given to Title X of the Job Opportunity Program. The Committee assisted agencies in giving orientation about the importance for providing emergency financial assistance to stimulate, maintain, or expand job-creating activities.

The Committee participated in the FmHA Emergency Loan Program. About 7,000 applications for these emergency loans were received by FmHA.

RHODE ISLAND

A statewide Community Development Committee (CDC) is Rhode Island's method of implementing the RD program initiated by USDA. There are 27 members on the Rhode Island CDC: 7 employed by Federal agencies, 10 from State and local government, 6 from business and the private sector, and 4 from institutions of higher learning. The four primary thrusts are: people building, economic development, community facilities, and environmental improvement. The basic purpose of the Committee is to help people in local communities to help themselves.

A cornerstone of the adopted operating policies of the RI-CDC is recognition of the fact that those best informed as to their problems and needs are the local people themselves, the people on the scene experiencing the situations. Thus it follows that the role of CDC is to encourage and assist in activities participated in by people who will be building toward solution of their own problems as a result of (1) awareness of the problems, (2) identification of resources that could help bring solutions, and (3) knowledge of how to obtain and apply these needed resources. In addition, the CDC, when requested, will provide the expertise available for State and local legislative processes."

The CDC offers a uniqueness of service by virture of the very broad diversity of interests and disciplines within its membership, plus its relatively unlimited potential to "reach out" when necessary, for advice and assistance from sources both within and outside government.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The State Rural Development Committee of South Carolina continued to meet regularly during FY 1975. Major emphasis was on review of programs and activities that significantly affect RD in South Carolina. The Committee has continued to follow the practice of inviting agency and organization representatives to share information on new programs or changes in existing programs for RD. The Committee members also share information concerning the changes in their own programs and the significance of these to RD.

The Committee also made a critical review of its own role in relation to RD. One of the concerns was a perceived failure of the Rural Development Act of 1972 to have the impact on RD that was expected. After a thorough review of the situation and much discussion about the future of the Committee, a subcommittee was appointed to look into the potential for holding a State RD conference. In June, the Committee voted to jointly sponsor, with the Governor's Office, such a conference. The most important objective for this conference is the need to impress upon local decisionmakers the opportunities for RD and the magnitude of resources currently available to support it without additional Federal grants.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The State Rural Development Committee provided State legislators with technical and statistical information during the legislative session. Members of the Committee were available to both the House and Senate agricultural committees. We also cooperated with the State Planning Commission in setting up planning district committees. We provided both technical and financial assistance to cooperatives established to benefit rural areas.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee State Rural Development Committee stressed the primary functions of coordination, communication, education, and motivation in support of total development in rural counties of the State.

The Committee emphasized six areas:

1. Communication and understanding among agencies and organizations concerned with development.
2. Continued strengthening of leadership and organization of regional and county RD committees.

3. Land use education.
4. Improvement in sharing of RD information from national, State, and local levels.
5. Maximum support to five counties in the Title V pilot project.
6. Support of local RD in conduct of an agribusiness survey.

A newsletter was sent to all State Committee members and to the chairmen of all county RD committees in the State. Four issues of the Resource Development Newsletter were edited and distributed by the Committee secretary. Information about local committees and recognition of their accomplishments has been a motivating force for increased Committee action throughout the State.

Five training meetings for chairmen of county committees were held to strengthen the concept of total resource development. Examples of work being done in various program thrusts were presented as a demonstration of what can be accomplished by an effectively organized RD committee. Reports received indicate continued progress in strengthening of leadership and organization of county committees. Increased interest of USDA personnel and positive attitude in support of USDA land use policy are apparent, as the topic of land use played an important part in Committee meetings and in individual agency programs. State Committee members' participation in the USDA Land Use Workshop and the Land Use Seminar, "Private Rights vs Public Needs," indicates the concern of USDA agencies and the desire to provide technical assistance on matters pertaining to land use.

The Committee's interest and support of the Title V project in Clay, Overton, Pickett, Hancock, and Claiborne Counties has strengthened the involvement of the local county committees in support of the project. The local committees initiated action at the local level to carry out the Title V proposal of the RD Advisory Council.

TEXAS

The State USDA Rural Development Committee encouraged the 252 county committees to work with local groups in initiating worthy projects that result in group decisions.

During FY 1975, the Committee reviewed county committee activities by meeting with the county committee and local citizens groups in Ballinger.

The State Committee's goals and emphasis for the future are to support ongoing programs of the various agencies and encourage county committees to support local citizen groups with technical information needed for RD.

UTAH

The Utah State Rural Development Committee continued during the year to strengthen relationships within the State. Active participation by representatives of the State Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Community Affairs, and the State Planning Coordinator were extremely important during the year.

Land use planning was a major issue in the State. A controversial land use bill was defeated. The RD Committee met with the State planning coordinator to review land use planning in the State and how the Committee fits into the overall picture. As a result of these discussions, guidelines were sent out to the district committees. As all member agencies are involved in some phase of land use planning, it was felt guidelines were needed to insure a united approach. As the guidelines had the concurrence of the State planning coordinator, activities will be carried out in harmony with the State.

State Committee liaison representatives continue to work with the area committees. This is an effective way to build cooperation.

Increased recognition by local people of the Committee has been pleasing. This recognition could be still higher, but the Committee is making progress in that direction. The Committee feels this is essential, as this offers better opportunities to further the cause of agriculture in Utah.

VERMONT

The Vermont Rural Development Committee met regularly, on alternate months, with good attendance from members and advisory members. Agendas included: identification of problem areas, clarification of agency roles, development of better linkages from local to State to regional levels (Federal Regional Council) and between agencies, and establishment of action subcommittees.

Problem areas identified, clarified, and worked on during the year included: flood plain zoning, agricultural waste management, land use planning, rural credit, rural health services delivery systems, agricultural mapping, onsite sewage project expansion, manpower relative to implementation of training programs, and CETA use in rural areas. As the year closed, the committee decided to do more work in economic development, housing, and agricultural marketing.

VIRGINIA

The State Rural Development Committee and the Virginia Resources Council are concerned with a number of emphasis areas. The two organizations provide a forum for agencies and groups to focus attention on the problems and opportunities of rural Virginia. During FY 1975, subjects that received special attention included land use planning, career training for youth, greater access to community health services, programs to help limited resource farm families, conservation, erosion and siltation, agricultural business, environmental concerns, and legislation affecting rural areas.

As a result of these discussions, agencies and groups were better prepared to work together on individual projects and activities of mutual concern.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Significant progress was made in FY 1975 over FY 1974 as far as coordination and cooperation between member and nonmember agencies and organizations are concerned.

First, and most important, is the fact that the four sponsoring agencies of RC&D project activities--(1) the V.I. Department of Agriculture, (2) V.I. Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, (3) V.I. (Soil and Water) Conservation District, and (4) the V.I. Planning Office--have had representatives present at the meetings of the VIRD Committee. In addition, member and nonmember agency representatives have attended all meetings called by the V.I. Conservation District and the V.I. RC&D Project Council, through the efforts and insistance of the chairman of the V.I. Conservation District and the members of the VIRD Committee. This, in itself, has spurred the project sponsors to become more actively aware of the plans and programs being carried out by the V.I. RC&D Project Council, and of the technical assistence and advisory support to this Council by the VIRD Committee. The VIRD Committee, as a committee, was able to coordinate efforts of the RC&D Project Council and the four agency sponsors much more successfully in FY 1975 than previously. The Committee has been instrumental in drafting and reviewing the RC&D project proposals which have been submitted to the Governor of the Virgin Islands for his information, consideration, and possible subsequent executive action.

WASHINGTON

The Washington State Rural Development Committee continued to focus on more effective land use planning efforts at the county and regional levels. Five counties were identified for special emphasis: Kittitas, Kitsap, Lewis, Okanogan, and Spokane. These counties are experiencing rapid changes in land use--each one has a certain uniqueness. Through the efforts of the State, middle management, and county RD committees, Federal, State, and local officials have been brought together to involve local people in planning. In Kitsap County, for example, the State Committee met in Port Orchard in March to gain first-hand knowledge of the land use problems associated with the establishment of the federally funded Trident Submarine Base. This base is being placed in an essentially rural area, with a resultant increase of 25,000 people. Local people were not being involved in the planning. After a tour of the Trident Site, the State Committee met with local, State, and Federal officials. Members of the Northwest Middle Management RD Committee and Kitsap County RD Committee met to discuss problem areas and find out how agencies could assist in the planning and development of the surrounding area. The Kitsap County RD Committee now appears to have developed a sense of purpose and is pursuing a set of interagency objectives. Resource data and personnel needs have been identified. Responsibility for liaison with other land use agencies has been designated. Citizen needs and involvement are beginning to be appreciated. The overall performance and coordination efforts of the Committee have been improved by the addition of planners, decisionmakers, and a member of the Trident Coordinator's Office.

A USDA Service Center is being established in Kitsap County. SCS has designated a resource specialist for the area, and the Cooperative Extension Service is presently recruiting a CRD consultant for Kitsap County. This is only one example of how the RD Committee has improved the cooperation and integration of efforts among Federal, State, regional, and local governments.

WEST VIRGINIA

The Mountaineers for Rural Progress (West Virginia's Rural Development Committee) during FY 1975 critically reviewed its progress and effectiveness and planned new strategies and goals in rural development. The Council progressed through the following sequences in establishing new goals and objectives:

1. First, the MRP State Council met with the Governor to discuss appropriate roles of MRP in supporting major RD efforts. The Governor stressed several points:
   -Rural development is necessary but often neglected.
   -Regional councils are an important part of RD; MRP should support and act as a resource to regional planning and development councils.
   -All agencies, State and Federal, should ensure that their efforts are complementary and that they do not compete at the expense of sound RD.
   -The formulated RD action programs must encompass water, sewage, solid waste, housing, transportation, and land use.
2. A special meeting was convened with an assistant to the Governor, to discuss the rationale and current activities of the 11 regional planning and development councils. Indications were that these regional units were being given more authority and funding to better effect regional planning. The MRP Council contacted each of the regional councils and offered its assistance. This initial step was followed by MRP Council and county committees meeting on a regional basis with the executive directors of these planning and development councils to discuss regional needs and techniques to more effectively use MRP resources and support for initiated projects. MRP members now serve on regional planning and development council committees as full members or in an advisory capacity. Regional planning and development staff are currently members of several of the MRP county committees. These working relationships have resulted in viable regional programs in solid waste management, land use planning, rural beautification, and recreational development programs.
3. The final stage in the evaluation and redirection process was the State MRP Council meeting with all county committees on a regional basis to explore current programs and future directions for the MRP thrust. General conclusions from these meetings were:
   -It is not necessary that the rural development effort be credited to MRP, but rather that the RD effort be positive and successful.
   -The MRP concern is RD on a statewide basis but implemented on a regional or county basis.
   -MRP has achieved its original mission to a high degree, if the mission can be defined as bringing together agencies with common goals in a manner that will ensure that their development efforts are complementary.
   -The MRP organization can be an effective force in collecting, identifying, and organizing resources at the local level.

These series of events have resulted in greater effectiveness and efficiency in using West Virginia's limited resources in implementing its RD programs. Projects in which MRP at all levels was involved were: Greater Kanawha RC&D Project, West Virginia Agriculture Hall of Fame, National Rural Development Leaders School, soil survey program, land use planning, solid waste management, water recreational survey, rural beautification programs, environmental education surveys, Bicentennial program support, anti-litter campaign, and area recreational development projects.

WISCONSIN

During FY 1975, the Wisconsin Rural Development Council gave priority to completing and evaluating efforts in the 19 RD demonstration counties. The executive committee of the State Council wanted to make everyone aware of the programs, projects, and accomplishments achieved by all involved. County RD Councils, local community leaders, and county government, as well as State and Federal agencies, all played a part in program development and evaluation of the demonstration effort.

The Council is in the process of completing a statistical and narrative evaluation of achievements. A special evaluation committee was appointed by the Council at the initiation of the demonstration.

A special statewide RD Council meeting was held in the demonstration area. State, Federal, and local agencies involved with programing reported. The most noteworthy part of the meeting was the input by local businessmen and citizens involved in RD projects such as small business management training, downtown renewal in small rural towns, housing, and health projects.

In no program effort was only one agency responsible for the success. The RD demonstration generated additional new staff members from agencies such as the Forest Service, SCS, FmHA, SBA, and Extension Service, with local units of government also adding assistance primarily through the CETA program.

With the demonstration's progress, and with many local needs being identified, funding was also generated through Title I of the Higher Education Act and Title V of the Rural Development Act. The Upper Great Lakes Commission provided assistance in several new projects.

The State Council hopes to follow the National RD Demonstration area through 10 years of activity. The 3-year start has not provided an adequate opportunity for evaluating the impact of such concentrated effort. Preliminary evaluation, however, does indicate that such effort may be an excellent way to stimulate sound RD.

WYOMING

Agencies involved in RD in Wyoming provided a variety of resource information to the planning organization working with Park and Big Horn Counties. Included was information on soils, watersheds, geology, wildlife habitat, and other resource matters. The planners also used the base maps which were developed by SCS as the basis for all county planning maps.

In order to get this resource information to the people who must make the decisions on land use planning, it was published in a newspaper format for distribution to the local papers. In addition to this approach, agency personnel helped to present much information to local people at meetings and other gatherings as requested.

Since Big Horn County is also involved in the Big Horn Basin RC&D Project, the information developed for the project plan was also made available to the planners. The people working with the RC&D Project have also been helpful in promoting the use of sound resource information in developing community plans.

Another source of information was available through the Type IV River Basin Study on the Wind-Bighorn-Clarks Fork. This study was a cooperative study headed by SCS and contained a variety of resource information.

Excellent cooperation such as this in presenting resource data to the public should provide a sound basis for making land use decisions as the planning process moves along.

Highlights and Examples

The following are highlights and examples of Land-Grant University efforts in RD beyond those of the Cooperative Extension Services and Agricultural Experiment Stations, which appear elsewhere in this report.

The University of Hawaii's Environmental Center advises rural communities relative to environmental problems and evaluates environmental impact statements for various public and private groups. The following programs also provide assistance to rural communities: Center for Governmental Development, Center for Labor Management Education, civil defense, speakers bureau, film library, KHET educational television, and Sea Grant educational programs.

An innovative water quality management project related to the testing of ground water pollution potential under a sanitary landfill was completed this year by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and Plymouth State College. Another program is the "Town Meeting of the Air" effort of the New Hampshire Educational Television Network (ETV). This is not directly a UNH facility or function, but many of the faculty and staff participate. Extension and lay people worked with the professionals in the development of the ETV program.

Many departments and colleges of Michigan State University cooperated to "round out" task forces working on educational "packages." The spirit of cooperation encouraged the acceptance of study of complex problems that require multidepartment and multicollege inputs. Several projects were shared with the staff of the Institute for Community Development. A specially funded community health project provided opportunity to work cooperatively with the College of Human Medicine. The College of Natural Science worked with Extension on several environmental programs.

At the University of Arizona (UA), professors in the Department of Agricultural Economics have conducted several studies throughout the State related to industrial development, changes in the economic base of the community, social marginalization, outdoor recreation, and land use. In addition, members of the College have assisted with community meetings and have supplied major input into efforts to solve water problems. Persons in Landscape Architecture have helped with several park designs in the State.

The Council for Environmental Studies coordinates and advises College of Agriculture units on matters related to the environment. The Director of the Office of State and Community Resources has been especially helpful in organizing University help for assisting communities with their wide range of problems.

During the past several years, the UA Community Development Section has obtained help for communities from perhaps every college in the University. Fishing, parks, health, economic development, community facilities and services, and energy conservation are some of the matters the Section assisted with.

The Title V program in Iowa is centered in Planning Region 5, a six-county area around Fort Dodge. With half of the Title V funding for research, in FY 1975, three major research efforts related to Title V were undertaken regarding land use patterns, rural industrialization, and the concept of the "good" community.

Extension staff have been involved in these projects from their inception and will play a major role in disseminating the information to individuals and groups during FY 1976 and FY 1977. A series of 27 community meetings will result from the "good" community study. Conferences and seminars related to land use and rural industrialization will also be developed. Over 75 faculty members from 5 colleges and 21 departments have been involved in consultations, meetings with local people, and/or projects related to Title V, most of them not paid from Extension or Title V funds.

A number of Iowa State University short courses and conferences for credit and noncredit, on and off campus, are related to problems of RD and are organized and offered by faculty not solely employed by Extension. Conference and short course topics include firemanship training, water quality, and town and community planning.

Finally, a project called "Educational Program for Leaders on the Impact of Regionalism in Iowa" was completed in Iowa in FY 1975. The primary audience for this program was women leaders. About 1,000 people attended statewide and regional meetings.

At the University of Minnesota, an innovative project known as "Project Rediscovery" has assisted people in several rural Minnesota communities to analyze and redesign their business districts and other physical features such as parks and historical features. The project utilizes students enrolled in a curriculum managed by the Community Design Center. Extension has related to this program by assisting in community contacts and working relationships.

The Fire-service Information, Research, and Education Center has devoted special attention to rural Minnesota. Special reports from the Center have dealt with identification and solution of fire protection problems in rural Minnesota, volunteer fire department organization, and outside fire service.

Rural Development information and technical assistance provided by the University of Wisconsin (UW) reflects an integrated research, instruction, and service organization and function. Approximately one-half of the faculty members do not have Cooperative Extension appointments. These staff members may be full-time or part-time University Extension workers with academic appointments in departments within the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or other campuses within the UW System. These Extension workers are appointed and budgeted and receive program review through the integrated Extension administration on the portion of their program time devoted to Extension.

This arrangement provides flexibility in staffing and programing, and allows academic departments to have contact with Extension programing and other field activities. In many cases, if the staff member with an Extension appointment in a department is not the one best qualified for a given assignment, another member of the department may take the assignment. As Wisconsin has only one public university system, different extension, teaching, and research arrangements with the departments are easy to implement. Arrangements can be changed on a day-to-day or program-by-program basis.

Mississippi State University's involvement in RD information and technical assistance beyond that supplied by the Cooperative Extension Service is twofold.

It includes research assistance from the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station through Title V in the three pilot counties, and consultant services, especially from the Engineering College and the Business College, to individual industrial firms and to organized private and public groups throughout the State.

Title V research included work on the following problems: (1) updating output, income, and employment information for RD, (2) costs of different kinds of rural water systems, (3) feasibility of vegetable production and processing, based on production, marketing, and processing costs and availability of land, and (4) economic indicators for the three-county Title V area.

Recreation planning services are provided to rural communities and towns by the Department of Recreation and Parks Administration at Clemson University (South Carolina) through student projects and consultation with Extension Service specialists in community development and with local planners. The Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts, Industrial Management and Textile Science, and Architecture all cooperated with the College of Agricultural Sciences in a university-wide housing committee which plans and supports development of resource information, education and training materials, research, and a housing education program.

The University of Rhode Island Bureau of Government Research offers low-fee or non-fee contractual services to local units of government to study and make recommendations about town government administration. The Laboratory for Scientific Criminal Investigation serves as a technical resource ("crime lab") to all police departments in the State and also offers training to police men and women.

The newly created Medical School at the University of Nevada, Reno, is offering an undergraduate education in health sciences. The objective is to provide part of the medical education needed so that students may return to Nevada (especially to the rural areas) to set up their medical practices.

The College of Medicine at the University of Vermont provides information and technical assistance, primarily to health practitioners and professionals around the State.

The Texas Real Estate Research Center conducted 39 seminars and meetings with an attendance of 2,000 people and published and distributed 316,000 copies of bulletins and documents related to rural property valuation, real property assessment, land use planning, real estate development, business ownership and business management, investment analysis, and real estate educational curriculum development. The Texas Transportation Institute provided assistance in conducting workshops and providing technical information for highway planning to rural towns and counties.

The Community Development Center was organized by the faculty of the Department of Art and Architecture and the College of Engineering at the University of Idaho to give students of the University practical experience in working as community consultants. It also offers assistance to community decisionmakers, the community paying only for student and faculty travel. Task forces are organized around community problems, based on requests received from communities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Rural development planning and implementation will depend on selection of the appropriate combinations of resources, processes, and programs. But it is essential that decisionmakers and program directors know the inputs required and results to be expected from the alternatives available before they choose a course of action. In the complex community development arena where differing goals must be accommodated, decisionmaking and implementation are not well understood. The various agencies of USDA and the Experiment Stations work toward better understanding of these complex relationships. Rural development research covers all 10 program thrust areas included in this report.

Most of the RD research covered in this section is based on reports of the work of three USDA research-oriented agencies: Agricultural Research Service, and Economic Research Service. ARS conducts research and development work in the production, utilization, and marketing of agricultural products, on human nutrition, and on other matters of concern to consumers. CSRS makes grants to State Experiment Stations, 1890 land-grant institutions, and schools of forestry to include research in agriculture, forestry, and RD. Title V of the RD Act provides limited funds for Stations to carry out RD research; in addition, regular research projects often consider RD problems. ERS develops and disseminates economic information for use by private and public decisionmakers concerned with use of resources in agriculture and rural areas.

Community Organization and Leadership Development

An ERS survey in Northwest Michigan showed that most leaders are satisfied with the RC&D project. This study also produced a set of factors that can be used to classify regions in terms of problems and expected responses by community leaders. RC&D project area residents were in greater agreement on natural-resource-oriented issues than on issues related to human resources. A survey of community leaders in small watershed project areas in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma found that more than 98 percent favored a watershed project for their area. Respondents included people who had no direct connection with projects as well as project sponsors. Favorable comments on the program included mention of reduced flood damages, improved drainage and water supply, and more recreation opportunities. Unfavorable responses generally dealt with project maintenance and size of project.

Researchers in New York seek to identify and interpret quality of life consequences related to selected characteristics of localities. They are determing (1) the extent of social, political, and economic linkages of the local community with larger units, (2) the extent to which local groups and activities are interrelated and coordinated with one another, and (3) the likely consequences of policy decisions taken at national, State, or local levels concerning local issues, resources, and programs and their effect on the enhancement of the quality of living in rural areas.

How people feel, how people become motivated, and what people value are all determinants of leadership effectiveness. Wisconsin Station research seeks to identify specific needs and problems of community leaders in experimental and control areas of pilot RD counties as they work with social change. The researchers' purpose is to utilize this knowledge of needs and problems to design training programs to overcome them. The researchers are also evaluating the effectiveness of this leader training approach in comparison with more general approaches of leadership training.

Minnesota Station researchers are determining how relevant some principles of community organization are to the adequacy of facilities and opportunities in rural areas. They have set out to determine the "spirit" or "vibrancy" of a community, that is how well do communities hold up in the face of outmigration, changes in the social and economic status of people and the need to provide local facilities and services. One answer being sought is at what point should communities be defined as "dead"; that is, if they offer few economic opportunities for youth, little in the way of adequate facilities or services and are faced with heavy outmigration.

Comprehensive Planning

ERS research on major uses of land showed the continued trend toward conversion of agricultural land to nonfarm uses. However, urban land was still only 2 percent of the total in 1970. In the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's), about 7 million acres shifted to urban uses between 1960 and 1970. However, only 10 percent of all land in the SMSA's was in urban use in 1970; 24 percent in forest and woodland. Most of the land appearing to be permanently retired from agriculture is in the Southeast, Northeast, Great Plains, and Appalachia.

CSRS reports North Carolina research that analyzed the potential impact of use value taxes on farmland. Farmland in rural areas is assessed close to market value. However, in urban areas, farmland is assessed below its market value. The effect of new legislation on tax burdens of farmers will vary depending on urban influence. But the overall effect will be small.

FS researchers used the Skylab satellite to inventory forest and rangeland resources of McDuffie County, Georgia. The new technique will help county and regional planning agencies determine the accuracy of land use and forest classification by both human and computer-assisted techniques. Land uses identified include forest, cropland, improved pasture, idle agriculture, urban, water, and other agriculture.

CSRS reports that a Connecticut study developed a legislative proposal to purchase development easements for designated farmland. Under the proposal, the State would purchase development rights when designated farms are offered for sale. The study developed criteria for designating areas and placing a value on the easement.

Community Services and Facilities

The search for alternative forms of energy has kindled interest in North Dakota's vast coal deposits. CSRS reports that research, drawing on prior research on effects of an anti-ballistic missile installation, reveals probable impacts of construction and operation of a coal gasification plant in another community. It has been determined that a new gasification plant would initially add more to local government costs than revenues, but would add more to State tax revenues

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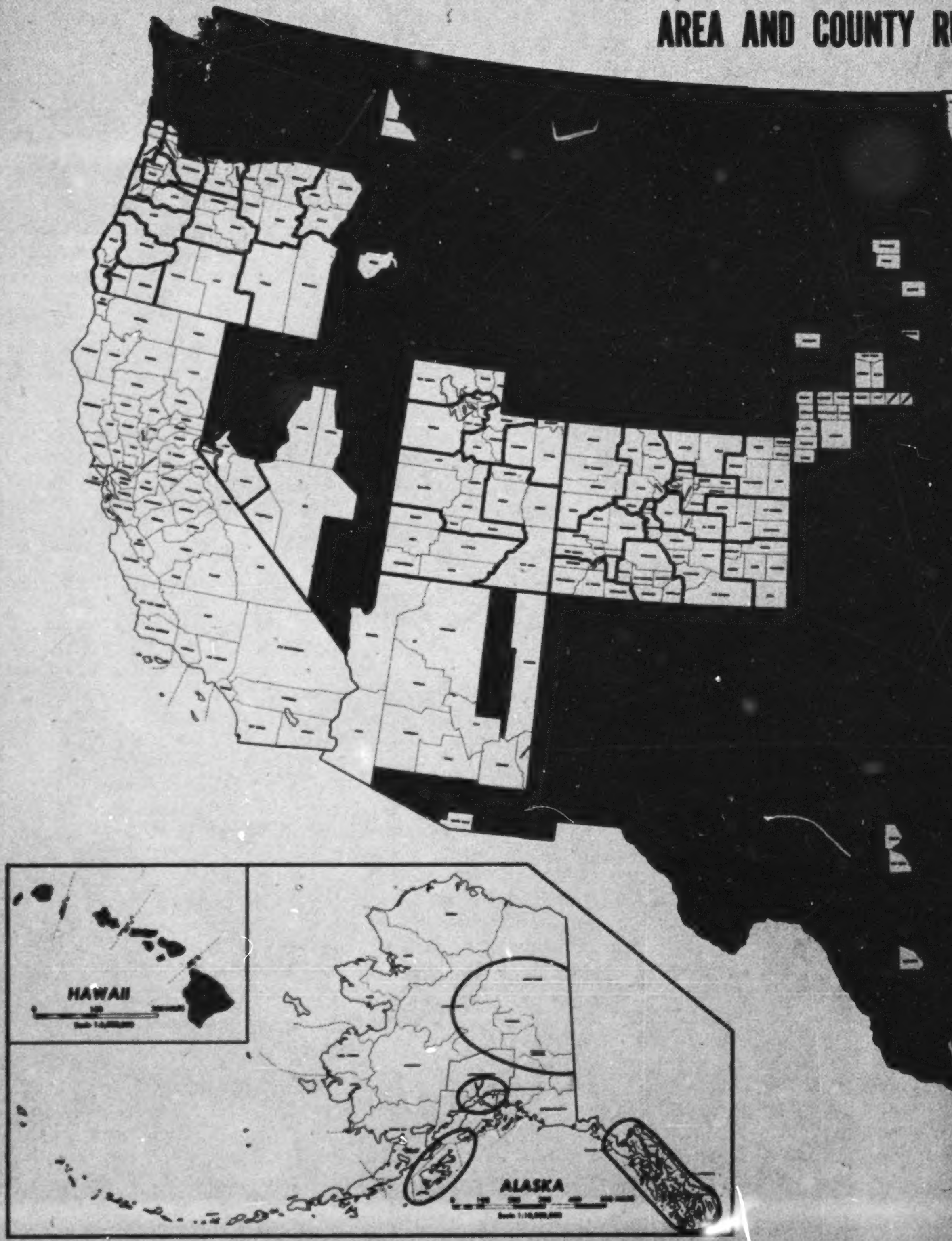
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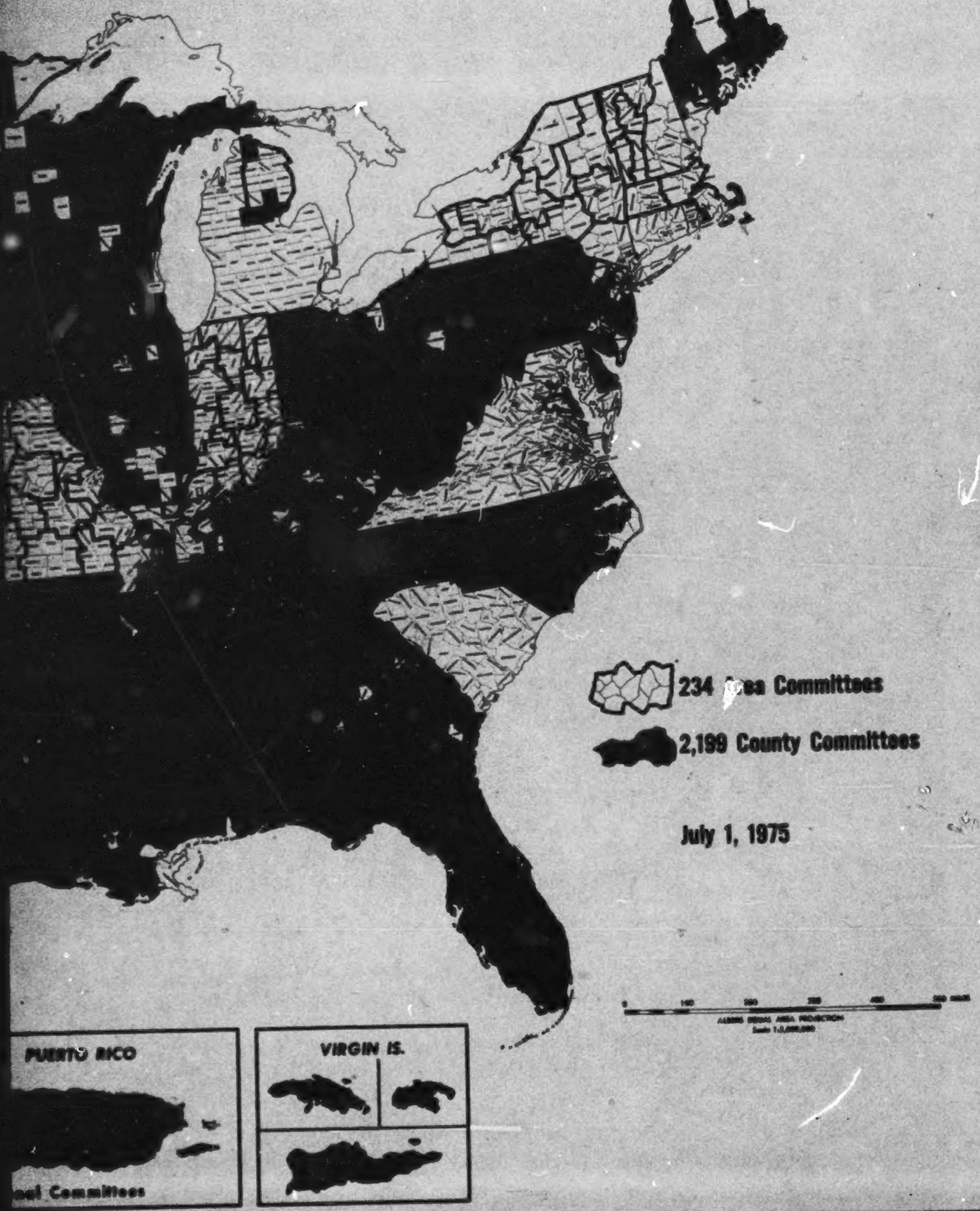
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than State costs for public services. This information has been used in the community to plan for changes when plant construction begins.

Mountain homes and recreational developments are frequently located in densely forested areas where natural fuels have accumulated, and where fires threaten. An FS analysis of the fire hazard and risk in Colorado forests is being made to evaluate the threat of fire to these communities based on available fuel and the risk of fires starting. With past weather records, the frequency of occurrence of factors which combine to create critical fire conditions--high winds, low humidities, and high temperatures--is being determined to assess the fire threat and aid more effective fire control through planning.

CSRS reports a Connecticut study that evaluated the effects of closing and repairing a rural highway bridge that provided access to a major beach area. By selective seasonal closing, costs of construction were increased by $1 million, but savings by residents and businesses in the area were estimated at over $30 million by keeping the bridge in operation most of the time.

Research conducted in Alaska indicates that the development of oil fields and construction of a major oil pipeline have increased employment and incomes, but there's still a high level of unemployment. Alaska's rate of inflation also exceeds that of the rest of the United States. The State government has not had sufficient revenue to cover its costs, so will need to tax oil resources in the ground and reduce royalties at a later date. By 1990, Alaska residents will not be appreciably better off economically than at the present time, according to the research.

ARS scientists have developed composting techniques to dispose of municipal sewage sludge safely and in an environmentally acceptable manner. This information has been furnished to rural and urban communities.

A research project in Nevada has sought to learn how school systems can increase effectiveness with lower costs in sparsely settled areas. It found that there are few opportunities to reduce costs significantly, but that there are some possibilities for improved efficiency.

Housing

An analysis of 1971 census data by ERS shows that home buyers in rural areas paid higher interest rates and had shorter repayment periods on conventional loans than urban counterparts. Rural people used mortgage funds for 71 percent of purchases, compared with 87 percent in SMSA's in the 1967-71 period. Fewer mortgages in rural areas were guaranteed or insured by a Federal agency.

ERS researchers have found that a high proportion of the families with substandard housing have such low incomes that they are not eligible for FmHA loans. Yet, families with incomes over $10,000 occupied 7 percent of all rural housing without complete plumbing. A high proportion of rural Negro families (73 percent) with incomes under $4,000 occupied substandard housing. Such housing was occupied by only 24 percent of rural white families with similar incomes.

Energy requirements for farm family living were studied in an ERS project. In 1970, farm families used 36 billion cubic feet of natural gas, 850 million gallons of fuel oil, 1 million tons of coal, 26 million barrels of liquified petroleum (LP), and 23 billion kilowatts of electricity--a total of 368 trillion BTU of energy. It was projected that use of coal and fuel oil for space heating will decline by 1980, but use of LP gas and, to some extent, natural gas will increase.

ERS researchers in cooperation with the Oklahoma Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service have teamed under the Title V project to determine opportunities to construct rental housing in a rural community. The analysis consists of calculating average costs for fourplex and low-rise type apartment structures. Average construction costs are $12,711 and $11,634 per apartment constructed in a fourplex and low rise, respectively, well below that of single family dwellings. Average annual operating costs per apartment in a fourplex and a low rise are $1,721 and $1,288, respectively. These average costs are being used by private and public agencies to estimate total construction and annual operating costs for alternative rental developments. Detailed procedures have been outlined to enable a local decisionmaker (private or public) to determine profit levels at various occupancy and rental rates under various management strategies and alternative sources of financing.

Community Health and Welfare

An ERS study indicates that more than 7 million people over 65, or 36 percent of all people in this age group, live in nonmetropolitan areas. Counties with the highest proportion of rural elderly are in the Midwest and the Great Plains region. In these areas, it may be difficult for older Americans to obtain social and business services. Where young people leave, there is a shrinking tax base to support the services. Rising property and sales taxes place an added burden on the rural elderly. Limited transportation facilities complicate the delivery of transportation service to this age group, according to the study.

ARS research to suppress the population of mosquitoes with a specific nematode is being field tested. A commercial product, developed as a result of research at Beltsville, Maryland, was made available in FY 1975 for testing in farm ponds and other breeding sites. Control of mosquitoes has benefited both community health and recreation activities by reducing health hazards and the nuisance effect. Results of the research have been applied nationally and internationally by civil and military agencies.

An ERS study indicat[illegible] typical county, 13 food stamp recipients would be removed from the rolls by adding 100 people in the county to the labor force.

Manpower Development

A cooperative ERS-North Carolina study of employment in a three-State flue-cured tobacco area indicated that 286,000 jobs were lost in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in the 1960's. But employment increased by 781,000, largely in urban areas. The proportion of females in the labor force increased 14 percent--accounting for nearly three-fifths of the total labor force increase during the decade. Employment of younger males declined. The increased employment is reflected in a 7.1 percent annual increase in per capita income. Yet in the area, both employment opportunities and incomes lag behind those of the Nation as a whole.

ERS researchers have completed a rural labor force benchmark study. These data provide information on the labor force in 1970 and can be used for manpower development programs and to understand labor force availability for areas planning industrial development under the 1970 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

An ERS-Oklahoma study indicates that the labor turnover rate in Great Plains States' manufacturing plants is higher than for the Nation. A technique was developed to identify the characteristics of employees who remain on the job less than 6 months and those who work longer than a year. The classification rule used on a plant in the study area would result in hiring 86 percent of those employees working more than 1 year and 51 percent of those employees quitting within 6 months. The technique is useful to plant managers to reduce labor turnover and to local industrial groups seeking to attract industry and analyze their labor force.

Recreation and Tourism

A study by ERS of a national recreation area within an RC&D project revealed that visits to the area benefit motel owners and other businessmen as well as those directly concerned with the recreation establishment.

An Oregon study of public and private campgrounds indicates that camper fees pay about one-fourth of annual operating costs of public campgrounds. In the coastal area, a reservation system was inaugurated, with overflow going to private facilities. Information on private facilities is limited and not widely publicized. Oregon is reviewing its fees to determine if a greater share of costs should be borne by users.

Environmental Improvement

ARS research has developed a superior turfgrass and turfgrass management practices, improved ornamental plants, and environmentally acceptable practices to reduce populations of insects in parks and recreation areas.

Guidelines prepared by EPA on effluent from feedlots would affect hog, beef, dairy, and poultry producers. As originally proposed, guidelines would have applied to all producers. ERS research showed the guidelines would adversely affect 280,000 producers and would require them to invest $750 million in effluent control facilities. EPA is now applying guidelines only to larger producers.

An ERS study indicates that installing air pollution equipment on cotton gins to conform to air quality standards could require ginners to invest more than $100 million. Some small gins might be forced out of business by such requirements.

Feasibility studies of solid waste and sludge management in rural areas conducted by ARS indicate that composting and land application of sludge was the least-cost method of disposal. Use of municipal waste as fuel was feasible but more costly than landfill under current conditions.

Technology generated from ARS research efforts on the management of animal wastes and reducing wind erosion has developed more effective management of solid wastes to reduce air, surface water, and ground water pollution in rural areas. These research programs have developed effective systems to manage animal wastes to conserve plant nutrients, reduce odors and control water pollution.

Business and Industrial Development

ARS research developed a new hide preservation process, successfully evaluated by the industry. Since environmental restrictions may force an end to old methods, full adoption of the new process by the tanning industry would save money and alleviate a water pollution problem.

In cooperation with the University of California, ARS scientists developed a process to treat rice straw on large scale production to improve feeding value for steers in feedlots. This process will provide needed forage supplies and solve the environment pollution problem since burning of straw is prohibited.

Commercial adoption of a new type plant developed from ARS research will efficiently produce sorghum or maple syrups and will lead to establishment of 5,000-to-50,000-gallon syrup plants in rural areas of Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio. These additional sources will help alleviate shortages of sweetener products and give employment to rural people.

Maple syrup made from late season sap often has an objectionable flavor and odor. ARS has developed a procedure to remove the objectionable flavor from this maple syrup, thus increasing syrup yields and lengthening the processing season. In FY 1975, the development was presented at meetings to New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania producers, who later adopted the process.

Many small town businesses are viable, usually dealing in an extensive range of "mainline" products, according to a CSRS summary of research in Washington. Yet, in declining communities, there are many more specialized businessmen who have no outside alternatives, have low sales volume and incomes, cannot sell their businesses, and are entrapped in the community. Most local merchants often carried low profit lines, not to entice customers, but to provide a service to the community. Objection to government regulation centered on safety standards, periodic reporting, and "no knock" inspections of regulatory officials.

Approximately 130,000 bushels of white corn was determined to be contaminated in tests conducted by ARS as farmers delivered the corn to an elevator in Diehlstadt, Missouri, in October 1974. The corn could not be sold to food processors. ARS then prepared tests to determine if the corn was fit to feed to cattle to alleviate a grain shortage.

A Louisiana study indicates that in a rural area an increase in agricultural production and agricultural services has the greatest increase in total output in the area per dollar increase in the various sectors of the economy. These results are similar to an earlier ERS study of an Oklahoma area.

ARS scientists helped to develop sediment standards for EPA that will be used to evaluate water quality regulations for erosion control on construction sites and other sources of sediment, to improve environmental conditions in the North Central Region.

Rural Cooperatives

As a result of research, FCS assisted a group of Mexican-American vegetable producers to organize a cooperative to coordinate production and marketing of vegetables in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This group is expected to have higher farm and family incomes and is expected to serve as a model for economic development for small farm operators to improve incomes.

FCS investigated the feasibility of helping fishermen in the Virgin Islands, Louisiana, and Georgia form cooperatives to purchase supplies and reduce costs as well as improve fish marketing techniques to improve sales returns.

FCS examined the potential for peach producers to finance and build a new cold storage, packing, and shipping facility for fresh peaches near Campbell, Missouri. This study helped the peach growers to organize cooperatives to own and operate a central facility, to design the facility and to obtain local financing. ARS engineers helped design plant layout and FmHA guaranteed local bank loans.

Research at Louisiana Station is determining the feasibility of organizing, financing, and managing model cooperatives to meet income needs and rural living requirements for families with low incomes. Such cooperatives would market and process fruits and vegetables, finished hogs, eggs, timber, feeder pigs, fishery products, and organic food crops; purchase or procure farm machinery and equipment, credit, and farm supplies; and supply consumer and household goods, consumer credit, and services.

PROGRAM AREAS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Organization and leadership development are integral parts of all RD efforts. No RD effort gets far without effective leaders and an effective structure to give life to ideas and solutions to problems. Leadership development takes the form of improving people's competence in community decisionmaking, thus enhancing the viability of a community. Community organizations create structures which can support the decisions local citizens make.

The development of this local leadership and organization remains a high priority within the Department; yet, the initiative for this development must depend on strong local participation. If community leaders lack essential development skills and do not have access to technical, financial, and planning resources, any initial attempts at community improvement will be seriously handicapped. The Department has advanced a number of solutions designed to overcome this inadequacy, and made them flexible to cover a wide range of assistance requirements.

USDA representatives from each agency may have daily contact with local leaders, volunteer groups, and district and State officials, providing assistance that culminates in project development. Their activity has accelerated in order to match the growing needs of rural communities, needs which are augmented by the new trend in population dispersal toward rural areas. Department agencies have initiated programs to train local leaders in RD, established a one-stop service providing complete resource information, acted as "ombudsmen" to assist local leaders in utilizing all available resources, served as advocates for rural needs on major interagency and interdepartmental task forces, and reviewed and recommended legislative changes to ensure the equitable distribution and speedy delivery of Federal resources. In addition, USDA has fostered a closer working relationship among the many programs which can benefit rural America.

Organizations such as the State and national RD committees and Federal Regional Councils, as well as executive working groups, are meaningful structures which give substantive attention to the unique problems of rural areas. Their assistance and coordination of activities have done much to diminish the disparities between rural and urban communities.

Statistical Summary

The Department has substantially increased its efforts in all aspects of community organization and leadership development. In FY 1975, staff years devoted to providing information and technical assistance increased more than 20 percent. Over 800 more projects were assisted, and nearly 7,000 more workshops and conferences were held than in the previous year. A very real concern for rural America is reflected by these increases and their tangible results.

Highlights and Examples

Under the Rural Development Act of 1972, RDS was delegated statutory authority to cross interagency and intra-agency lines to coordinate increased utilization of available resources and services throughout the executive branch to benefit rural America, an especially important service since approximately 80 percent of the resources pertaining to RD are administered by agencies outside USDA. Throughout the agency, most individual staff days are devoted to coordination and leadership development, an orientation apparent in FY 1975, when these efforts included: Two National Rural Development Leaders Schools in the Northeast and West, continuing a project begun in FY 1974; assistance to State- and local-sponsored schools for rural community leaders; assistance to approximately 1,000 communities in identifying Federal and State program resources and recommending joint funding opportunities in implementing their rural development plans; and an increase in interagency and interdepartmental coordinating activities, including the successful negotiation of cooperative agreements that will result in either expanded or more efficient delivery of Federal assistance to rural areas.

With the assistance of the regional community development committee, the New York RD Committee held four multiregional meetings during September-November, 1974. At the meetings, local leaders discussed the problems and needs of their communities with the State Committee. During the coming year, the Committee hopes to examine the problems considered crucial in order to develop more effective multi-agency assistance to the rural communities in the State.

The Nebraska State Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives held a RD Conference in Omaha in August 1974. Some 100 rural electric leaders from 17 States attended. The purpose of the meeting was to spark a national development effort among the rural electrics. The cooperative's leadership abilities and close relationships to rural families were emphasized.

In the Colorado River Area of Arizona, an Extension agent working with the Carver-Black Hills Neighborhood Council has enabled the organization to obtain funds from the U.S. Jaycee Foundation, the District Council of Governments, and the City of Yuma to "open communications within the neighborhood and the city of Yuma." Specific projects in progress include a youth center, an information center, and a transportation project for needy persons.

An Extension home economist in Rhode Island trained lay speakers in a series of workshops on heart-related diseases. The lay speakers were scheduled to discuss heart diseases, a main health problem, with community groups in the State.

Extension in Puerto Rico conducted 445 training meetings, seminars, workshops, and conferences to improve local leadership skills during 1975. Resulting from such efforts in Maricao was a plan of work with priorities in tourism development, road improvement, and industrial development. Today a hotel is under construction on an old coffee plantation, and two recreational areas have been constructed in the hilly area of Maricao.

In one county in Arkansas, the State RD Committee cooperated with Extension in conducting a county-wide leadership survey to determine individual problems and locate new community leaders. Committee members teamed up with community leaders to call on selected persons to be interviewed, and conducted the survey in 1 week. Tabulation of results identified numerous problems, including a need for more doctors and medical facilities. A county leaders' meeting was held with representatives of the University of Arkansas Medical Center to discuss the doctor shortage. One additional doctor has located in the county since the leaders' meeting.

County personnel from five USDA agencies in Florida collaborated in conducting a successful foreign student seminar in Columbia County. The seminar was developed to give foreign students exposure to people, institutions and the way of life in rural North Florida. They saw first-hand the framework in which the agricultural development of the rural county was occurring. Upon completion of the 2-week seminar, a majority of students and residents agreed that it had been a fruitful and unique experience.

In New Mexico, a small rural community has been selected as the headquarters for a small industry. Realizing the importance of its impact, the mayor organized a discussion meeting in cooperation with the State RD Committee. Professionals and specialists in many areas of community life attended and were able to explain how different facets of community life would be affected by the new industry.

A pilot project for community development in Ohio continued to receive assistance from the State RD Committee during the past year. Furthest toward completion are the development of an industrial site and a lower and middle income housing site for the community.

In Duncan, Arizona, local town officials have taken positive steps to improve their community. An all-day meeting was attended by community leaders and members of the State RD Committee, who were briefed on local situations and problems. They responded with explanations of what kinds of help were available from the various agencies and what was involved in obtaining assistance.

In Sumter County, South Carolina, 10 families organized into an action group to do something about standing water creating a health hazard around their relatively new rural homes. After meeting with leaders of the local RC&D project, SCS was contacted for assistance. The Sumter County Commission agreed to clear the right-of-way for a ditch in back of the homes, which solved their problem satisfactorily.

RDS assisted a group of 17 peach growers, with 1,643 acres of orchard in Southeastern Missouri, who wished to form a marketing cooperative. RDS made arrangements with FCS to provide market analysis and feasibility studies for the growers. Subsequently, FmHA provided a $600,000 business and industrial loan for the cooperative.

The Robertsville-St. Johns Community Development Committee, organized and supported by Extension in Florida, has succeeded in getting road signs to increase safety of travel in the community; has developed support for a water system and is obtaining financing from FmHA; and has developed a farmers curb market which is open to all local farmers and gardeners.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

During FY 1975, USDA agencies were active in developing research information and providing comprehensive planning assistance to State and local governments as well as multicounty and local planning organizations. Comprehensive planning involves many areas, but as in the past, major emphasis has been on land use planning and related zoning regulations.

Statistical Summary

In FY 1975, USDA agencies devoted 700 staff years of assistance to this program area, a decrease of 9 percent from FY 1974. Assistance was provided through about 28,500 projects and 17,800 surveys and feasibility studies, neither substantially different from FY 1975, when the corresponding figures were about 30,500 and 17,800. There was an increase in one category of comprehensive planning assistance--total number of different publications distributed, up about 56 percent.

Highlights and Examples

USDA field personnel have helped to prepare technical data and criteria for land use planning and implementation of plans. Planning data often include aerial photographs, topographic maps, land use studies, soil surveys, and data on water quantity and quality.

Extension has designed educational programs in response to public concern over national and State land use legislation and increased interest in the preservation of land for agriculture and forest production. A range of information and technical programs is offered to communities, some of which are initiating planning programs and creating planning agencies for the first time; some communities are revising and updating comprehensive plans; others are developing citizen input into the planning process.

REA has encouraged borrowers and field personnel to work with local planning bodies. Borrowers often provide technical and information assistance in the planning process, particularly in planning for electric and telephone service. Currently board members or managers of 225 REA borrowers serve on 431 multicounty planning organizations.

An Illinois rural electric cooperative is providing information and technical assistance to the local planning and zoning committee, board of supervisors, and county conservation office in the development of a large area of stripmine land. Roads are being extended into the area and recreational campsites are being developed. Electric service in the reclaimed area is being provided by the cooperative.

The Kansas Extension land utilization task force includes representatives of most Extension departments and economic programs. It is an "early warning" group to develop educational land utilization policies for Kansas. The group sponsors interdisciplinary activities related to land utilization. A newsletter, "People and the Land," is published 6 times annually for 1,500 agency personnel and other interested persons. The task force initiated and is co-sponsoring a statewide educational program on the National Flood Insurance Program, with emphasis on flood plain management for local officials and their representatives.

The Utah State RD Committee has been involved in a community-oriented planning process and information system. A task force of Federal, State, and university personnel developed guides for local representatives engaged in land use planning. The system depends on citizen advisory committees, county and community technical advisory committees, and a data information system at the local level. A fully indexed planning bibliography is available to each district, county data bases are being developed in four counties and a slide tape is available for workshops throughout the State.

The Arkansas State RD Committee conducted eight district meetings to familiarize district and county RD committees with programs to promote quality in the resource base, environment, and standard of living. Over 500 people attended and made several suggestions on how the State Committee could help local committee efforts. The land use planning committee prepared two land use slide sets for use in district meetings. The committee also informs district and local committees on land use legislation and related activities. The district chairman maintains current land use data for reference by committee members and other persons.

The Connecticut RD Committee worked with the Governor's Committee on the Preservation of Agricultural Land. Legislation directed the Connecticut Board of Agriculture to develop criteria to identify land that should be preserved. The RD Committee is helping the Board of Agriculture to develop these criteria.

The Colorado State RD Committee has activated a land use task force to help USDA agencies to play a consultative role and provide technical assistance to local governments and State agencies. The State Committee action plan calls for FS and BLM to provide major inputs for land use planning on Federal lands. While the metropolitan COG's have adequate professional staffs, the 13 nonmetro planning and management districts are somewhat less well staffed and need planning assistance.

A land use task force on the Nebraska State RD Committee has worked with the five-county Mid-Elkhorn Valley COG to develop comprehensive plans. Pierce County Commissioners have accepted a plan that went into effect in April. Stanton County is updating its comprehensive plan. Stanton City is revising its plan that has had enforcement problems. The remaining jurisdictions have nearly completed their plans, and expect to adopt them soon.

A task force of the Alabama USDA RD Council published a pamphlet, "Land Use Planning--A Position Statement of the Alabama USDA Rural Development Council." Distributed statewide through county offices, the pamphlet defines land use planning and lists planning assistance available from member agencies. The task force has also held a series of meetings to train county RD committee members on land use planning issues and how to provide planning assistance.

The Tennessee State RD Committee works closely with the State Planning Office in land use policy. The RD Committee also provides regional and local committees organizational, research, educational, and technical information. A land use seminar, "Private Rights vs. Public Needs," was sponsored by several organizations, including SCS.

The Ohio RD Committee's land use subcommittee is working with local groups on land treatment with sludge. The Medina County land treatment task force is one group using information to determine the most appropriate ways to dispose of sludge in the area.

Assistance by the New York State RD Committee aided the Southern Tier Central Planning Region to organize a planning board that would meet requirements for assistance from HUD 701 planning, EPA grants, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. A meeting of the planning board staff with the 3 agencies resulted in formation of a small representative and workable board instead of the 90-member group which had been proposed.

Two multicounty Extension workshops in land use planning held in North Central Arkansas were each attended by 65 leaders, officials, and agency representatives. The workshops provided indepth information on options available to cities, counties, and local communities. Over 2,000 people participated in other meetings planned to point out the historical development of the area and the conflicts in land use in the future.

The Massachusetts Natural Resources Planning Program is an interagency effort to provide information to towns to guide sustained growth, based on the natural resources of the area. Cooperative Extension identified key people, explains the program, and assists with the organization of the 10 town committees involved in various aspects of the program. Cooperating agencies are identified and encouraged to work together to prepare and implement a comprehensive town plan.

Iowa county RD committee plans of work show that 63 of the committees are providing land use education and technical assistance. The most popular activities are sponsorship of meetings on land use policies, discussions of the need for and use of soil surveys, and forums to discuss planning and zoning. County RD committees have provided assistance in developing rural water districts, establishing recreation facilities, and creating senior citizen housing projects in rural areas.

The land use development subcommittee of the West Virginia State Council (Mountaineers For Rural Progress--(MRP)) is inventorying major land changes in the State since 1970, through a survey of assessors, planning commissions, and county MRP units. The study, pretested in counties to assess its validity, is expected to be completed by September 1, 1975.

Wisconsin is facing increasing pressure to develop rural recreation areas. The Wisconsin RD Council, with State and Federal agencies and concerned citizens, aided in providing information and studying future land uses for development. Activity is largely in Northern counties, where pressure for development of rural and lake recreation lands is intense. A series of meetings dealt with land use and inland lake management, including the current status of land use mapping in recreation areas and plans for comprehensive planning followed by improved zoning ordinances to implement the land use plan. Inland lake management discussion was based on research by the Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Extension, and other cooperating agencies and municipalities.

A major activity of the North Carolina State task force on rural environment and the 20 county RD panels in the coastal zone was to protect and better manage the State's fragile coastal lands, faced with increasing use pressures from population growth and second home and tourist development. Water supplies are polluted, oyster beds have been closed for health reasons, erosion is accelerating as developments are located on the dunes, and traffic congestion has worsened. The North Carolina General Assembly passed the Coastal Area Management Act, designed to prevent or minimize these problems. The task force and county panels worked closely with the Coastal Resources Commission, local governments, and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources to develop the educational program to inform people of the Act. A workshop was held for the 20 coastal county Extension chairmen (who also are chairman of the county RD panels) to describe the provisions and purposes of the Act. A comprehensive educational packet on coastal zone management was developed, including 11 publications from several agencies and organizations.

Flooding of residential and other areas of Sidney, Nebraska, has been a problem. SCS assisted the Cheyenne County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a flood prevention and control plan. Most of the land treatment practices have been instituted and the structures installed. Now, even a "100-year storm" will have little effect on streets, utilities, and buildings in the area.

The New York State RD Committee has been working with the State Board of Equalization and Assessment to develop realistic use value assessments for farm land, currently being assessed at or near market values.

In Guilford County, North Carolina, the county zoning, inspections, and land use departments call on ASCS for information for decisions. Farmland and farm buildings are exempt from zoning ordinances and good information on the status of these tracts is in the farm records and aerial photographs in the ASCS office.

The Adams County, Pennsylvania, county commissioners are completing a study to determine water needs and the quantity and quality of water available to potential users. There is no major stream through the county. The commissioners consulted with the county RD committee, which suggested that ASCS records and aerial photography could be used to determine land areas and water availability.

FS personnel in Colorado assisted Ouray County and a regional COG in multiple-objective land use planning. There was a need to identify suitable gravel sites, a solid waste landfill site, and a recreation area. A 40-acre site was located that meets all three requirements. Initially, the recreation area will be limited, but will expand as gravel resources are used and the landfill expands.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The availability of a wide range of community services and facilities is crucial to the development of rural areas, not only in supporting the creation of business and industrial employment opportunities, but also in enhancing the overall quality of life in such areas.

Efforts from within the community are necessary, and often the facilities can be provided only through local efforts or by the cooperation and participation of more than one community. Rural community interest in upgrading or obtaining new community services and facilities is expanding at a rapid rate. Much of this interest can be explained in terms of increasing rural population and the influence of RD programs.

As stated earlier in this report, nonmetropolitan areas gained 4.2 percent in population, compared with only 2.9 percent for metropolitan areas, during 1970-73. This ended a migration of rural people away from farms that averaged more than 1 million annually from 1940 to 1960. Since community facilities and services generally tend to be more feasible for serving larger populations, the growing number of people in some rural areas has justified additional services. For example, an ERS study has found that per customer investment costs of sewer systems in small Oklahoma communities declined from $1,000 to $434 with an increased number of users.

Title I of the Rural Development Act of 1972 has added financing authority for a multitude of community projects at favorable finance rates to rural communities. This program can assist communities in obtaining local government office buildings, health care facilities, fire protection equipment and facilities, water and waste disposal systems, and recreational facilities, plus other projects. The greater aspirations of rural communities to provide additional services has also stimulated the demand for information and technical guidance concerning the proper approach to problems in terms of community decisionmaking and technical information necessary to evaluate alternatives available to the community.

USDA provides information and technical assistance relating to community services and facilities in three general situations: (1) assistance provided in conjunction with projects requiring loans or grants, (2) assistance provided for projects not in conjunction with loan or grant funds, and (3) information contained in USDA research publications.

Many communities begin projects without a thorough knowledge of the necessary planning required or a sufficient understanding of the alternatives available. FmHA personnel work closely with rural communities seeking loan or grant assistance by explaining agency programs and assisting in the development of economic, legal, and engineering plans. These plans are reviewed by FmHA staff as a part of the loan-making procedure, and deficiencies are identified and corrected.

Loan-servicing activities after the loan is made also provide opportunities for additional assistance when problems arise. Agency time devoted to this type of assistance is not included in supporting tables because the activities are incidental.

As mentioned, other types of information and technical assistance are provided that may not be associated with loan or grant applications. Extension has developed a delivery system that contributes to the dissemination of information at the local level and allows staff members to contribute to the local decisionmaking process. Department personnel participate in seminars and meetings involving issues relating to their field of expertise.

USDA also conducts research studies designed to develop information in this program thrust (see the "Community Services and Facilities" heading in the chapter on RD Research).

Statistical Summary

USDA personnel devoted 650 staff years to providing information and technical assistance about community services and facilities during FY 1975. Significant assistance was provided on 32,811 projects. USDA agencies conducted 9,458 surveys and feasibility studies on community facilities and services, an increase over FY 1974, and conducted 11,027 meetings on the subject, also an increase. Departmental agencies made available 74,261 different publications during FY 1975 and distributed 1,717,693 copies, also an increase.

Highlights and Achievements

Loans to rural fire departments have generated such interest in North Carolina that 54 fire departments have received financial assistance to purchase trucks, upgrade equipment, and build fire stations and related facilities. A number of other loans are in process. A special informational pamphlet on loans for fire and emergency rescue services was also developed, and more than 8,000 copies have been distributed.

The high cost of construction of rural water district projects can nearly eliminate the feasibility of such projects. FmHA in Kansas worked with rural water districts and professional engineers to find ways to lower construction costs. This assistance was particularly helpful in the design of systems that eliminate the high cost of standpipes.

FmHA procedures have encouraged Oregon communities to prepare comprehensive water and sewer plans, feasibility studies, and engineering studies to quality for financial assistance.

FmHA in Illinois sponsored the fifth annual Consulting Engineers Workshop. Officials of 45 engineering firms active in utility construction in small communities plus agency and professional association representatives attended.

Extension is providing educational information to communities and users of rail services in rural areas of the 17 States of the Northeast Corridor affected by proposed railroad reorganization. The program was developed to assist community leaders and public agencies on the overall provisions contained in the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 and to provide technical assistance to community leaders, Extension agents, industrial development groups, and other government agencies.

North Dakota Extension has provided organizational and educational assistance for 4 operational rural water associations, as well as 2 in formation and 15 in the planning stages.

Extension has developed educational materials which include costs for solid waste disposal collection and for the operation of landfills. These materials were used to help 11 counties in the South Central Montana Development Federation develop solid waste disposal systems incorporating a subsystem for recycling.

A Concerted Services in Training and Education (CSTE) coordinator in Maryland worked closely with a local Community Action Agency to implement a pilot transportation system that eventually led to the purchase of three 19-passenger buses to begin regular passenger service in a rural county.

ARS personnel have organized and sponsored a short course field day and machinery display for turf specialists, home gardeners, and golf course green supervisors.

FmHA has been meeting with rural communities throughout Iowa to explain the services available to assist officials with water, sewer, solid waste, and other community projects. As a result, over 100 communities or rural areas of the State are receiving financial and technical assistance from FmHA.

FmHA officials in Maine worked with a school for multiple-handicapped children to develop plans for the winterization of buildings and the construction of a central dining room for students and staff. The school operated as a summer camp. The plan was then used to support an application for a FmHA loan to allow year-round use.

FmHA helped one rural county in South Carolina to begin a countywide fire system. Fire stations are being constructed in different communities.

The development of water and waste disposal facilities in rural Nebraska has led to local interest in other projects as well. The rural public, along with professional people, looks toward FmHA as a source of expertise for the development of rural community projects.

REA field personnel keep borrowers abreast of available Federal financial and technical assistance. Field people distribute various program "fact sheets" to borrowers and locate financial and technical assistance for specific projects, on request.

FS personnel worked with health departments in two Florida counties to establish a working rural solid waste disposal plan. Each county now has a system in operation.

FS helped one school system in Arizona to design and plan an outdoor environmental education facility as a part of the environmental education program.

Local FS personnel assisted a county in Wyoming and the town of Jackson to prepare an application for a water pollution control planning grant. FS has also agreed to help the county prepare and implement the plan.

Improved community services and facilities were enhanced by the distribution of over 600,000 SCS informational publications during FY 1975.

About one-third of the REA borrowers responding to a recent survey reported assisting 272 community projects during 1974. The kinds of assistance were: (1) legal assistance in forming the necessary organizations, (2) helping to identify potential water users, (3) sponsoring citizen informational meetings, and (4) assisting with engineering problems.

New Jersey Extension continues its attention to the problem of gases escaping from underground decomposition of organic matter. Burlington County has been helped to secure a Federal grant to recover combustible gases from a refuse landfill and use the gases for industrial heating in a glass plant. Also, Extension has obtained a $65,000 grant from EPA to develop information which will be used nationally and worldwide by those interested in changing completed landfills into areas which will support good vegetative cover.

Soon after its formation, the Clinton County, Indiana, community development study committee (fostered by Extension) decided to study the county's airport problem, which had become an emotional issue. The nonprofit group which owned the facility was struggling with debt and management woes. The committee doggedly gathered all the pertinent information it could and individual members quietly worked in their own way for solutions. The county bought the airport and turned it over to the county seat town. It is now successful.

HOUSING

Home ownership has become an increasingly challenging goal for many families in rural areas as housing construction costs have steadily risen. The traditionally disproportionate number of substandard dwellings located in rural areas will persist as the population of nonmetropolitan areas continues to increase faster than the metropolitan population, as noted in an earlier section.

Federal programs have made progress in helping rural people to obtain decent housing. FmHA loans may be used to purchase new and existing homes and for home repair. The Extension Service and FmHA provide information and technical assistance to allow rural families to obtain the maximum amount of housing possible with the resources available, with or without financial assistance.

The Extension Service counsels with low-income families to acquiant them with available housing assistance programs and to help them determine the most suitable type and design of housing. In addition, this group benefits from assistance provided concerning family financial management and home maintenance.

FmHA also provides information and technical assistance as a part of loan-making activities. Meetings are conducted on a regular basis to inform eligible families of the programs available and how they are administered. Also, FmHA routinely reviews housing plans submitted by borrowers and builders to ensure that they meet minimum specifications and keep costs within specified limits. FmHA assistance associated with loan-making activities is not included in table 1 since it is incidental to the loan and grant program.

REA responds to requests from its borrowers for information on sources of credit for housing and technical assistance. A survey of community development activities indicated that, during 1974, 96 REA borrowers assisted with projects associated with housing. The assistance included arranging financing, forming housing authorities, and surveying housing needs.

The Department of Agriculture conducts research studies relating to rural housing and alternatives available for satisfying the housing shortcomings in rural areas. See the "Housing" heading in the chapter on RD Research for highlights and examples.

Statistical Summary

Agencies of the Department of Agriculture devoted 338 staff years to providing of information and technical assistance related to rural housing during FY 1975. Staff years devoted to this area declined in FY 1975 from FY 1974. However, from FY 1973 to FY 1974, staff years of assistance in housing showed the largest increase of any program area, 44 percent. Staff years totaled 400 in FY 1974, 278 in FY 1973.

Highlights

FmHA and the Cooperative Extension Service of West Virginia have cooperated in publishing a pamphlet each quarter called "Big Money Memo For Modern Mountaineers." It is sent to rural housing borrowers.

Maine FmHA has been instrumental in holding 25 informational meetings with an average attendance at each of 75 contractors, carpenters, suppliers, and jobbers. Information covering such matters as house plan design, plan layout, and local plumbing, electrical, and heating codes was discussed, supplemented by fact sheets. In addition, 20 meetings were held throughout the State to inform realtors of various types of homes FmHA could finance and the need for structural development. Over 100 meetings were held with potential rural rental housing borrowers. These meetings were designed to assist borrowers in developing feasible rural rental projects.

Illinois FmHA has held a continuing series of meetings to provide technical assistance to suppliers, contractors, and manufacturers of modular housing, as well as employees of the Illinois State Department of Local Government Affairs, to provide information on the rural rental housing program.

Tennessee FmHA reports that some counties have had special editions of local newspapers dealing exclusively with FmHA programs and their contributions to the communities.

FmHA housing program efforts in Minnesota have centered around: (1) continued work for better subdivision planning and the location of more suitable sites, (2) work with community zoning and regulatory officials on proper housing programs and planning, and (3) work with SCS in land use and capability determinations for housing sites and subdivisions.

A default counseling program in Washington was established using CETA personnel and funds. There are 11 counselors in pilot counties. Counselor training was conducted by the Seattle Housing Development Group, Washington State University, Extension agents, and FmHA. The materials used were developed in part by an Extension specialist. Initial results show approximately 20 percent of the defaulted home mortgages have returned to paying status. The program has been functioning for 5 months, and indications of its full impact will take another 4 months.

The Forest Service has developed a guide for putting new life into old dwellings. It includes information on examining a house to determine its suitability for rehabilitation, planning for improvements, and details on construction practices to accomplish the rehabilitation.

Years of research and field experience are summarized and presented in a publication entitled "Condensation Problems In Your House; Prevention and Solution," published by FS. The publication includes recommendations for good practices in the use of paper barriers, insulation, and ventilation.

A FS exhibit at the Nevada State Fair featured house plans. Photographs of homes already built were displayed, a sample set of plans was available for people to inspect, and 500 booklets illustrating the different plans available were distributed.

County rural development panels in North Carolina are working with local planning boards, health departments, local governments, and other groups in developing subdivision regulations to develop building codes to provide more safety and security for home owners.

Extension engineers in Alaska have developed a unique 20-program series of 30-minute audio-cassette tapes entitled "Building With Logs." The programs cover the broad range of Arctic and sub-Arctic building techniques. A slide-cassette educational program on self-help housing has been produced by New Mexico Extension.

A major thrust of the Title V project in Delaware is assistance in providing housing to low-income people in Laurel. Work which began 6 years ago is culminating in 100 apartments and a 50-unit mobile home park. The apartments are under construction with HUD assistance. The mobile homes were secured and moved from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where they were used as temporary housing following a devastating hurricane and flood in 1972. The State of Delaware is assisting the mobile home park with $30,000 and a proposed total advancement of $255,000 in capital improvements. Extension Title V input has included a survey of blighted housing, a family living program for the future, and a management plan for the mobile park.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELFARE

In examining the efforts of USDA agencies in community health and welfare during FY 1975, what stands out most significantly is the great variety of programs. The overall emphasis is to help communities plan and organize in order to improve health services and reduce health problems. To meet these goals, the agencies have become involved in a wide range and variety of programs, from nutrition to capital improvements, from the eradication of intestinal parasites to the development of cottage industries to assisting senior citizens and the unemployed.

The keys to success have been cooperation and involvement. Agencies have worked both individually and through State and local development committees with State and local governments, citizen organizations, business groups, and schools and colleges to help determine health and welfare needs and to find solutions. Whether agencies responded to requests for assistance or initiated programs themselves, across the country they were active in virtually every level and phase of community health improvement.

Planning has become an increasingly important element in health and welfare programs in most States. Agencies conducted more than 1,000 surveys and studies to help communities determine priorities, inventory available resources, bring together concerned citizens and groups, and improve coordination of plans and actions.

The trend toward assistance in disease prevention and early detection increased this year. In many States, USDA agencies were active in expanding programs to educate people about causes and symptoms of disease and to detect cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, hypertension, and venereal disease while they could be easily treated.

Statistical Summary

The number of staff years expended by USDA agencies increased by 6.5 percent in FY 1975 from the previous year. While the statistics show a decline in the number of individual projects, they also suggest that a greater number of people were reached by educational programs. The number of publications prepared and distributed remained nearly the same as in FY 1974, while the number of radio and television and other audio visual programs jumped by 34 percent.

Highlights

The North Carolina RD Committee's health task force contributed to the development of a film and slide-tape program to help local leaders understand alternatives for improving primary health care. In Connecticut, the State RD Committee has worked with professionals and laymen in determining health goals for an impoverished rural area. An Oklahoma community resource development agent has been appointed to the 17-county Southeast District Health Planning Council. Twenty-six surveys and feasibility studies carried out by Arkansas Extension have helped State and local planning efforts. Extension cooperation with the health planning councils in Iowa led to an innovative statewide project on consumer health education.

Health Services. Extension of health services in rural areas and more efficient use of available doctors are the goals of a new Arizona Extension program which assigns "physicians' assistants" to carry out routine medical work and preventive medical programs. There are similar programs in Connecticut, Kansas, Nevada, and Iowa. In Eureka County, Nevada, services of a new county doctor were secured. An Extension home economist in Choteau, Montana, organized and led a community effort to establish an emergency medical services council and to build a new hospital. New clinics in Columbia County, Pennsylvania; Tyler and Hardy Counties, West Virginia; and Williamsburg County, South Carolina; and mobile health units in Dewey and Perry Counties, Oklahoma, owe much of their completion to Extension efforts.

Across states like Wisconsin, Mississippi, Utah, Kansas, Florida, South Dakota, and others, special units were set up with Extension to help provide early detection checkups for cancer, diabetes, venereal disease, and hypertension. Several programs, like the one in Waldo County, Maine, provided public education in preventive medicine. In line with this prevention theme, the Ohio RD Committee developed a slide set and supporting printed materials concerning the prevention of fires and related accidents. ARS has been successful in developing a flame-resistant finish for cotton and some cotton blend fabrics, which will prevent many accidents particularly in rural areas.

Senior Citizens. Bonner County, Idaho, Extension workers set up a consumer education program for senior citizens. Extension in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, organized a County Council on Aging to improve conditions and coordinate efforts. A survey of older citizens' needs in the five-county Middle Georgia region led to the implementation of a nutritional program. Delaware Extension, in conjunction with the College of Home Economics of the University of Delaware, received a State contract to determine ways to increase effectiveness of State programs for the aging.

In Kansas, a 4-H project resulted in many young people working as volunteer companions to senior citizens. There are many other ways of getting youth involved in bettering local health conditions and of learning about health planning and improvement. Mississippi and Idaho have reported a number of such 4-H community resource development projects.

Children. New York Extension published a Child Care Newsletter in Genesee County; established the Western New York Child Care Council, a multicounty agency centered in Monroe County; helped to set up a child care cooperative in Chemung County; and held a legislative workshop for child care in Tompkins County attended by several legislators and 75 other people from 8 counties. In Klickitat County, Washington, Extension has worked extensively with the Head Start program, and in Idaho, 13 counties have worked on a nutrition project with Head Start. Extension agents in Grant County, Kentucky, helped organize a campaign to raise $1,100 for setting up classes to train mentally retarded children.

Unique Programs. Extension agents in Massachusetts held a series of public forums dealing with the relationships of health, air pollution, and the energy crisis. Four Massachusetts community resource development agents are working with a regional hospital to develop a horticultural therapy program. In Maine agents have worked to set up cottage industries to manufacture products for nursing homes. Poinsett County, Arkansas, Extension agents worked with the local planning and development association to develop a 42-page brochure to help low-income families become aware of special health care services available at low cost. In Alleghany County, Maryland, Extension agents organized an interfaith consortium of churches to provide temporary relief to the unemployed. In a joint effort in Georgia, Extension, West Georgia College, and the State Department of Labor for Family and Children Services are providing training designed to get people off welfare roles.

Mass Media Efforts. Reaching as many people as possible is always a challenge; mass media offered one solution. In Virginia, three 1-hour TV programs on aging, education, and health were prepared by Extension specialists for the Roanoke Valley Region. A 10-part TV series, "Health Watch," was developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension specialists and carried by 24 public education cable systems throughout the State. In another way of attracting a large audience for public health programs, health fairs were held in Delaware; Chemung County, New York; Barbour County, West Virginia, and several counties in Nevada. A World Food Fair in New Mexico attracted people from New Mexico and from other countries, including internationally recognized experts in food and nutrition.

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

Recognition, development, and utilization of human resources have been emphasized in the USDA RD effort. The principal contributions in manpower development focus on upgrading skills and improving income levels, as well as improving opportunities for skilled and semiskilled labor in agriculture and other professions and trades in rural areas. Most of themmanpower development programs undertaken fall in one of the following categories: (1) surveys of manpower and development needs, (2) career counseling and education programs, (3) training programs including on-the-job training, and (4) employment for the handicapped, the disadvantaged, the low income, the underemployed, the aged, youth, students, and housewives.

Statistical Summary

About 262 staff years were devoted to technical assistance for manpower development in FY 1975 by USDA in cooperation with Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector. This represents a 3.5 percent increase from the 253 staff years expended in FY 1974. USDA assisted in 3,431 community manpower development projects in 1975 versus 3,798 in 1974, a 10 percent decline.

Highlights

The efforts expended for manpower development have helped to improve employment opportunities for many employable groups in rural areas. The selected highlights that follow discuss some of the USDA contributions toward improving and developing manpower.

In a majority of the States, Extension personnel were involved in assisting communities in their implementation of the Emergency Employment Act of 1974 (Title VI of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973).

Throughout the country, several hundred persons were employed under Title VI directly as Extension program aides, complementing and supplementing all areas of Extension work.

Extension continued its participation with State employment service agencies in the Operation Hitchhike pilot programs in Idaho, Oregon, New Mexico, New York, Kentucky, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Virginia, West Virginia, and Vermont. Extension also administered similar programs in Maryland, Georgia, and Minnesota. The Operation Hitchhike projects continued to demonstrate that manpower services can be efficiently provided to rural residents, in cooperation with Extension's information and educational delivery system in areas without ready access to employment services.

ERS, in cooperation with several other agencies, completed a nationwide study to identify workers requiring skill and knowledge of agriculture to perform their work. ERS has also completed a rural labor force benchmark study which will provide information on the labor force which can be used in manpower development programs.

National Forest personnel assisted Fremont County, Colorado, in carrying out the Neighborhood Youth Corps, Youth Opportunity Center, College Work Study, and Mainstream Programs. Assistance was provided in setting [illegible] a program for interviewing and counseling applicants. Fourteen enrollees gained much-needed employment in conservation work as a result. College Work Study enrollees participated in varied programs of conservation and in forest fire control--7 of the 15 enrollees were female.

The Sierra National Forest has worked closely with Reedley Community College in developing the Forestry Technician Program. One of the principal features of the program is on-the-job Forest Service training for students during the summer. Sierra personnel, in conjunction with the military service, provided work experience under Project Transition for enlisted personnel soon to be discharged who do not possess a civilian skill.

The Klamath National Forest in California developed a manpower training program for disadvantaged Indians which involved participation by a group from the private sector of the economy, as well as a county agency and a nonprofit Indian organization. The purpose of the project was achieved insofar as the trainees have been submitting successful, competetive bids on tree thinning and planting contracts. In addition, two adjacent National Forests have undertaken similar training projects.

A research work unit at Glendora, California, is providing students of Mt. San Antonio Community College opportunities for actual work experience as part of their college occupational program. The College administers the program under the Regional Occupational Program.

Through seasonal employment for tree planting, an FS project in Mississippi employs approximately 400 rural people each year, for an average of 6 months during the fall and winter. This type of employment for rural people provides supplemental income and allows them to remain on the farms and continue farm operations during the summer months, an arrangement especially suited for small farmers in rural areas.

Extension personnel in Missouri helped conduct a study on rural high school dropouts. Educational programs have been developed to aid dropouts in completing their high school education and with local educators to assist them in alleviating the dropout problem.

The development of manpower skills in agriculture continued to be a major Extension focus in many States. In Grant County, Washington, a youth farm was established on which 18 economically disadvantaged youths received employment and training in agricultural production and marketing, as well as in work attitudes, values, and motivation. And in Puerto Rico, Extension assisted other State agencies in training 32 young family heads to establish family farms.

Training and certifying youths as tractor drivers continues on a large scale in Kansas, Montana, and Arkansas, as well as other States.

The Opportunity Farming Program in Minnesota employs 5 retired successful farmers as nonprofessional program aides to assist over 100 low-income farmers in a 4-county area in improving their farming abilities and raising their income levels. And in Wisconsin, Extension participated in a program to increase the availability of trained farm hands.

In Pottawatomie County, Kansas, ASCS sponsored and assisted in the administration of the Kansas Youth Program. During the summer of 1974, approximately 20 youths between 14 and 18 years of age from low-income families were placed in various government agencies in the county for work and training. For the 1975 summer program, 22 youths were employed and placed in 8 different work stations in the county. The young people are gaining knowledge in nursing, secretarial skills, building maintenance, conservation, and other occupations. During the school term, USDA personnel in Pottawatomie County also have assisted in the placement of students in the High School Work Study Program.

The Wenatchee National Forest worked closely with the Kittitas County, Washington, manpower development committee, principally in helping train and place agricultural workers in fields related to forestry. Personnel from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest assisted in several manpower development programs at the high schools. This included provision for on-the-job training by local FS offices.

Over the past year, a Green Thumb crew, comprised of five to seven men, has worked on a Utah-based shrub improvement research project. Time put in by the crew has varied from 6 to 8 hours per day and from 2 to 4 days per week. The crew has made important accomplishments and contributions to the program, especially in areas of extending certain research results to pilot areas.

The Louisiana Forestry Commission has cooperated with the Northwest Louisiana Vocational and Technical School in developing a forestry curriculum for a 1-year forest technical course to be taught at a local school.

Rocky Mountain FS region provided the Navajo Indian tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs with supervised cartographic training of two people for 12 weeks and one person for 16 weeks at the Denver office.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has become involved in a student intern program in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin for the purpose of providing on-the-job practical training and experience to undergraduate students in the forestry curriculum. The students receive course credit for this work, but no salary.

Contract crews for the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) administered by ASCS in Missouri were recruited by FS from unemployed loggers and sawmill workers. The depressed railroad tie and lumber market has resulted in unemployment in this sector. At the peak of the program, there were about 30 FIP contract crews, with a total of 120 men employed.

Angeles National Forest continued its "trail boss" program in FY 1975. This program trained scout leaders, who in turn were able to lead their boys in trail maintenance and construction projects. Approximately 1,640 staff-days of trail work were donated during the year, with 100 staff-days spent in training.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

After a rapid increase for many years in the amount of outdoor recreation and tourism, the demand for these activities appears to be leveling off. Rather than filling an unmet need, new facilities will compete with established facilities for the tourism dollar. The type of service being provided, the location of these services, and the amount of advertising for recreation activities as well as facilities will become increasingly important.

Improvement of recreation and tourism throughout the country is a goal of various agencies of the Department. These efforts are mainly directed toward helping communities make and implement decisions related to development, improvement, and operation of services. The information and technical service provided by the Department will become increasingly important as competition increases and tourist interests shift from one locale to another. Much of the emphasis this year was on helping local communities develop and interpret their historic and cultural heritage, particularly tied to the Bicentennial.

USDA provides county officials, recreation commissions, local communities, special interest groups, and community leaders with survey statistics, demand analysis, design layouts, and financial advice on recreation services and facilities. In addition, USDA assists in establishing local sponsoring organizations, identifies specific project areas, suggests sites for recreation projects, participates in preparing individual project plans, and verifies local money commitments.

Statistical Highlights

Education and organizational leadership in recreation and tourism is a major RD contribution of the Department. A total of 336 staff years of technical assistance was provided to 10,498 community projects in FY 1975. Departmental agencies also conducted 4,421 recreation and tourism workshops and conferences during the year.

Highlights and Examples

Through efforts of the Buckeye Hills RC&D project in Ohio, a park master plan was developed. Funds have been obtained and installation and expansion of facilities, including camping, boat launching, bridle trails, access roads, and beaches, is underway. Development of this park has stimulated tourism and an increase in local business.

In Arizona's Cochise County, the Living Museum of the Southwest Heritage has stimulated the growth of tourism. Increasing business is benefiting the 16,000 cooperative members spread across an area larger than three New England States. The president of the museum board is the manager of the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative.

The Macon County, Georgia, ASCS office has worked with the Chamber of Commerce in researching and assembling information on old farms and plantations in the county. This information has been published and is helpful to tourists and local people. The articles are also used in observance of the Bicentennial.

ARS in Florida is helping the tourism industry by reducing the prevalence of dog flies on Florida beaches through the application of research results.

In Southwest Michigan, a 55-mile snowmobile trail on private land was constructed through the cooperative efforts of the Western Michigan Snowmobile Council, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and USDA agencies.

The Extension Service in Florida helped the Blountstown Garden Club draw up a plan for beautifying the highway from the city to the bridge over the Apalachicola River. Flowering trees were located and planted along the highway by the Florida Division of Forestry.

Kansas State and Extension Forestry personnel completed comprehensive plans for park development in the Kansas communities of Rozel and Burdett. Plans were designed around community needs and construction is now underway, using local labor and talent.

In Alabama, Extension provided assistance to the Coushatta Indian Reservation in conducting training for Indian tour guides. A training manual was developed which enabled reservation staff to conduct the training.

Through the assistance of Extension and other local, State, and Federal agencies, a farm museum was established in Carroll County, Maryland. This year-round facility, which had 50,000 visitors in 1974, conducts farm and crafts demonstrations and provides visitors with an opportunity to appreciate early American activities.

The Extension Service in Minnesota, in cooperation with other associations and other agencies, conducts resort management seminars. A total of 340 owners and managers participated in FY 1975 in this training relating to all aspects of the resort business.

The county Extension agent in Vigo County, Indiana, also a park board member, assumed the county had a good park and recreation plan. However, at an Extension board meeting, a visitor said her children did not have access to parks or playgrounds. The location and transportation problems are now being studied--community block parks and other projects to "bring recreation to the people" will be available in the future, the agent vows.

The white sands of the New Jersey shores attract thousands of out-of-State visitors. Extension has: (1) encouraged beach and water protection, (2) assisted in establishing private campgrounds, and (3) helped maintain efficient land use patterns. For example, Cape May County Extension has promoted private campgrounds to the extent that there are now 45 of them with 13,000 sites, resulting in a $12-$15 million industry. Extension has also worked with schools, 4-H clubs, civic clubs, and municipalities since the disastrous storm of 1972 to establish beachgrass planting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

During FY 1975, USDA continued to emphasize environmental improvement in rural areas. Solutions to problems associated with energy supplies and utilization are of continuing concern to rural residents. USDA agencies were in constant contact with local citizens, helping them to find solutions to problems. The need to develop new sources of energy created demands upon USDA agencies to assist with measures for protecting environmental values under pressures for increased energy production.

The demand for USDA agency services and resources also continued to rise to meet the Nation's demand for more food and fiber at the same time as demands for improving the environmental source of these bounties increased. Rural areas continue to be concerned with erosion and sediment control, waste utilization and management, rural beautification, land use planning, and conservation education.

USDA made a concerted effort to respond to rural community requests for assistance within the limits of personnel and resources.

Statistical Summary

During FY 1975, USDA personnel provided 1,365 staff years of information and technical assistance to communities. groups and agencies of State and local government on environmental improvement. This compares to 1,436 staff years in FY 1974, 1,187 in FY 1973, and 1,064 in FY 1972. There were nearly 21,000 projects assisted in FY 1975, compared with 27,000 in FY 1974. Some 6,130 surveys and feasibility studies were provided in FY 1975, compared with 6,761 in FY 1974. And 11,341 meetings, workshops, and conferences were assisted in FY 1975, compared with about 16,500 in FY 1974. Nearly 4 million newsletters, bulletins, fact sheets and other publications were distributed in FY 1975, compared with about 6 million in FY 1974.

Highlights and Examples

Soils around Perham, Minnesota, are sandy and subject to wind erosion. Citizens and civic organizations launched a plan with assistance from SCS which included planting 387,000 trees on borders of 4-1/2 sections of land surrounding the town. Wind erosion is already noticeably reduced. Included in the plan was provision for purchase by Perham of 320 acres for Christmas tree production.

Camp Lab School in Jackson County, North Carolina, had an erosion and drainage problem severely limiting the use of the 5-acre grounds for recreation and play. SCS worked with civic groups, interested citizens, and local agencies to take action. Improvements included installation of 1,500 feet of drain tile and necessary vegetative cover. Completion of this improvement has increased community use of the 5 acres for recreation and also reduced erosion and sedimentation of water courses.

Disposing of sewage effluent without polluting streams was the aim of citizens of the Lead-Deadwood, South Dakota, area and a mining company. In consultation with the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Experiment Station, a system for using the forested watershed was developed that should clean the sewage effluent so drainage water leaving Grizzly Gulch will meet acceptable standards.

Locating logging roads to minimize damage to the environment was the purpose of a workshop held in Romney, West Virginia, sponsored by SCS, West Virginia Extension, and the State Department of Natural Resources. The logging industry and the public were shown how logging roads can be located and established with minimum erosion and stream sedimentation damage. Those attending acquired new skills and a new resolve to improve protection of the environment.

"Do not burn today, the rangeland fire danger will be very high in the State." In Kansas, such warnings are broadcast during early morning--about the time farmers and ranchers eat breakfast--at the encouragement of rural fire districts. This has proven to be effective in rural fire prevention and environmental protection. The effort resulted from a cooperative agreement between the National Weather Service and th[illegible]sas Extension forester.

In Nebraska, efforts in environ[illegible]l improvement have led to instituting the first conservation curriculum i[illegible]olic schools in Kimball, Cheyenne, and Deuel Counties. In Nukolls County, a conservation school day tour sponsored by the county RD committee was held for 180 seventh graders.

A waste utilization project in New Mexico has led to new uses for wastes, including extraction of nutritional supplements for livestock feeding and ingredients for use in fertilizer production. New Mexico State University is continuing research in this area, in cooperation with the State RD Committee.

The "Clean Sweep" program initiated by citizens and local leaders in Greene County, North Carolina, assisted by the county RD committee, has been a motivating force in beautifying the area and enhancing its future growth. This included cleanup of junk, abandoned cars, and ugly sites, especially along rural roads, highways, and village streets.

In Connecticut, an environmental review team continues to counsel and guide developers in their evaluation of land available for development. This service continues to be well received by developers and other interested citizens and has contributed immeasurably to environmental improvement. State RD Committee members continue to contribute time to the review team.

USDA agencies have made substantial contributions to environmental improvement of Northwest Michigan. As a result of their assistance to local units of government, groups, organizations, and individuals, (1) water quality of lakes and streams is being improved, (2) soil erosion by wind and water is being reduced, (3) wildlife habitat is being improved, (4) forestry resources are improving, and (5) new recreational opportunities have been created. USDA program activities have also aided economic growth and development and improvement of living conditions for citizens in the area.

In Mississippi, the loblolly pine has been found to be ideally suited for erosion control, permanently stabilizing eroding areas in 5 to 10 years. The Forest Hydrology Laboratory at Oxford has developed techniques for storing, conditioning, and planting the trees and for extending the planting season of pines on severely eroded sites. These findings are being used to improve the environment, even on sandy sites.

Surface mining can cause high environmental costs through erosion of soil and spoil, sedimentation of streams and lakes, and denuding of landscape. At Berea, Kentucky, FS scientists have been working on ways to minimize these costs. In order to lessen this impact on the environment, new practices have been developed for establishing both trees and herbaceous vegetation in the reclamation of strip-mine spoil banks by careful selection of species for use on spoils, and proper fertilization and use of lime. Application of mulch for successful establishment of grasses and legumes has been demonstrated.

Attacks by wood-boring insects have caused heavy damage to hardwood saw timber, affecting lumber and log grades. In Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia, these pests have reduced the value of red oak factory--grade lumber by $24 per 1,000 board feet produced. Studies underway at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station aim to develop a silvicultural control for oak borers that will permit higher utilization of oak resources with substantial economic and environmental improvement.

The Louisiana Forestry Commission, in cooperation with Louisiana Forestry Association and the Future Farmers of America, planted 1,000 trees in Vermilion Parish. In a similar cooperative program, the Forestry Commission, working with the Girl Scouts, planted trees in six towns. A total of 6,000 pine seedlings was planted to help improve the environment.

In Florida, the Columbia County Environmental Council, Inc., is devoted to encouraging participation of its members and other interested people in enhancing, preserving and conserving their social, physical, and natural environment with the aid and guidance of USDA agencies.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing job opportunities through the establishment and expansion of businesses and industries is desirable for many rural communities.

The business loan program of the Farmers Home Administration has helped focus attention on the need for an increased emphasis by USDA agencies to provide communities with business information and technical assistance. Through meetings, workshops, and personal contacts, FmHA made a concentrated effort to acquaint commercial leaders, rural businesses, State agencies, community leaders, and rural residents with programs available for business development. The FmHA program has also brought about increased cooperation with SBA, EDA, and other Federal agencies concerned with business development. In addition to FmHA financing and the technical assistance provided by other USDA agencies directly to business enterprises, USDA agencies help improve the community facilities and other services necessary to attract industry. For example, assistance is provided for water and sewer systems, electric and telephone service, housing, fire protection, and other essential facilities and services. Increasing community awareness of such programs which can support business development is a key element of USDA assistance.

An important aspect of helping create new jobs is the acceptability of business development by local citizens. Through the educational and informational process, Extension specialists take the lead in helping communities weigh all the factors associated with business development. Such assistance can help avoid potential conflicts between the citizens and the business community.

Statistical Highlights

Assistance increased in six categories in FY 1975; only community organization and leadership development exhibited more across-the-board increases. The Cooperative Extension Service and USDA agencies also provide communities with information about programs of other Federal agencies, State agencies, and the private sector, including educational institutions. The Department's staff years devoted specifically to information and technical assistance for business and industrial development increased from 234 in FY 1974 to 328 in FY 1975.

During FY 1975, Department personnel assisted communities or groups interested in business development with approximately 5,600 projects (increase); participated in or conducted 9,128 meetings, workshops, or conferences (increase); and carried out 1,582 surveys or feasibility studies (also an increase from FY 1974).

Highlights and Examples

The North Carolina RD Committee, working with its county committees, reported that over 4,000 additional jobs were created by local industries which they assisted. FmHA, Extension, SCS, and other groups work with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources and local development groups in evaluating the potential and economic feasibility of various activities; providing assistance in site selection; improving water, sewer, and other community services needed by rural industries; and providing financial assistance. Specifically, the Jackson County RD panel and the Economic Development Center at Western Carolina University prepared an up-to-date inventory of county resources, part of a six-county project funded by North Carolina Extension and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station under Title V of the RD Act.

County Extension agents and Extension community resource development specialists in Texas are providing assistance to rural leaders to improve their business management expertise and assist in the development of new job opportunities and sources of income. Training materials and programs include a 10-week self-study course and workshop for training rural leaders in the area of economic and industrial development.

In August 1974, a large financial firm contacted the area Extension specialist to help them gather information on the feasibility of establishing a new savings and loan office in Southeast Kansas. The inquiry required close scrutinization of existing and planned housing starts, the supply of housing, the demand for housing, and pertinent banking data. Aside from housing data, information on savings potential in the trade area was also needed. The officials of the financial firm and the area specialist gathered and analyzed the needed data. The results showed definite need for an additional savings and loan office, which is now under construction.

The only commercial peach orchards in the State are located in southeast Missouri (Dunklin County). New and improved varieties, which have replaced the traditional varieties, have increased production. The additional production necessitated expanded processing and storage facilities. To do this in the most economical manner, growers formed a nonprofit corporation and obtained financing from local banks. A $660,000 loan has been obtained and will be guaranteed by FmHA under the business and industrial loan authorization. In addition to providing needed facilities for the peach growers, it will provide employment for 69 additional persons in the area.

A rural electric cooperative in Georgia has joined with other local organizations in helping finance a program designed to create new jobs in the community. A contract with the industrial development division of the Georgia Institute of Technology will result in available technical assistance in (1) designing a park development, (2) helping to establish promotional programs and the handling of industrial prospect inquiries, (3) coordinating local programs with other areas, and (4) collecting and analyzing economic data.

FCS' main thrusts are with cooperative business enterprises. North Carolina is developing an areawide approach to business and industrial development through cooperatives. In Vermont, additional assistance was given to a statewide handcraft program. In Appalachia, continuing assistance was given to 34 craft cooperatives in forming a federation to assist in marketing.

Personnel from the Jefferson National Forest have been working with the Mt. Rogers, Virginia, Volunteer Fire Department to help them establish a sugar maple and molasses operation on National Forest and adjacent private lands. The Whitetop Mountain Molasses and Sugar Maple Corporation had its first successful operation this spring by producing 65 gallons of maple syrup. They say that they could have sold much more, and intend to expand the project next year.

Technical data and background information on manufacture of compressed fuel logs from sawdust, shavings, and bark were given to Club 20 (a western Colorado industrial development group) by the Colorado State Forest Service and the U.S. Forest Service during 1973. The information was published in 1974, and shortly thereafter, a fuel log briquetting plant was constructed at Montrose. The plant reached capacity production during FY 1975. The plant will use 625 tons of wood residue per year to manufacture compressed fuel logs.

The establishment of a pallet and lumber mill in Newton is the result of considerable assistance from Kansas State and Extension foresters. Timber resource data were compiled to justify a decision to set up a pallet assembly and lumber mill plant. A feasibility study on pallet manufacturing was also provided to the cooperator as a guide in selecting equipment needed, estimating the cost of producing pallets, and marketing the final product. He was encouraged to seek out local pallet contracts during the early production period. Six months after the pallet plant was in operation, assistance was given to establish a sawmill. Financing for the combined operations was established through SBA and private capital.

A utilization and marketing bulletin was started by the Montana State Division of Forestry. It provided useful and timely information on forest products utilization and also a "swap shop" service to bring buyers and sellers of forest operating and wood products processing equipment together. The bulletin is sent to every utilization and marketing forester in the United States and to all known forest products operators and wood products operators in Montana. Over 9,500 copies have been distributed since January 1975.

RURAL COOPERATIVES

During FY 1975, the Department continued its meaningful efforts in assisting rural people in their cooperative development programs. The most active agencies in this area were the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farmer Cooperative Service, and the Forest Service.

The Department is concerned with the "whole" cooperative. This means a concern with the problems of management, members' loyalty, board members, markets, supplies, services, and finances.

The several agencies provide technical assistance to groups in their cooperative organizational efforts. Technical assistance for emerging and existing cooperatives encompasses business management, financing, director and membership training, planning, bookkeeping, operational help, markets, buildings, quality control, and transportation. Technical assistance programs are back-stopped by FCS basic research.

Again, cooperative RD activity centered around agricultural activities. Rural craft development continued to create additional interest and new markets. Continued interest was shown in cooperative actions in the areas of vegetables, fishing, transportation, credit, forestry, recreation, grazing, water, and sewer associations.

USDA's technical assistance program for rural community cooperatives is based on the philosophy that all cooperative efforts should be economically feasible. Then, and only then, will cooperatives have a chance to grow into viable economic successes for rural people.

Statistical Significance

USDA information and technical assistance requests from rural community groups and cooperatives remained strong and active. There was a slackened interest in organizing cooperatives, especially by minority groups, because of the current scarcity of grant and "soft" loan programs for limited resource groups.

The number of staff years devoted to the rural cooperative thrust dropped from 106 in FY 1974 to 96 in FY 1975. Historically, the program thrust doubled from 44 staff years in FY 1972 to 89 in FY 1973.

The number of projects assisted in FY 1975 was 1,956, a decrease from 2,045 in FY 1974. In FY 1973, 1,886 projects were assisted.

Highlights

Again, in FY 1975, cooperative educational work has been with newly organized low-income minority groups as well as with established cooperatives.

FCS, working with Extension, continued to develop many craft and heritage fairs. Training programs have assisted craftsmen to create a more visible and viable industry. This has provided more employment opportunities for rural people, and thus has helped enhance their quality of living.

Extension's educational work with cooperatives included both producer and consumer groups. The cooperatives ranged from small vegetable growers combining efforts for local curb markets to multimillion dollar industries encompassing vegetables, cattle, crafts, ornamentals, golf course operations, and fisheries. Newly organized cooperatives have been supported by community educational campaigns conducted by Extension. Special attention has been given to proper organizational structures for efficient operations.

In Nevada, Extension assisted ranchers in the cooperative marketing of farm products and livestock feeds and the purchase of supplies, such as gasoline and baling wire. In the Las Vegas area, low-income families have been organized into a cooperative to produce and sell goods that can be made at home. The residents of Kingston Canyon are being organized into a cooperative, while in the Yomba River Valley, the ranchers are being assisted to purchase power equipment cooperatively.

The Prescott National Forest helped train members of nine rural fire protection cooperatives in central Arizona. The training improved the effectiveness of these rural fire departments, particularly as it related to wildfires.

In Alaska, the Forest Service joined with several consultant firms to present information on development of joint ventures in a forest industry made up of a group of Sealaska native village corporations. These regional corporations are familiar with fisheries and purchasing cooperatives and there is interest in organizing a forestry cooperative.

The Craft Professionals of Vermont received technical assistance from FCS in organizing a statewide association of craftspeople. Its purposes are: to serve as spokesman for the professional craftsmen of Vermont, to promote crafts, to encourage professional marketing and sales of crafts, and to encourage crafts education and training. Stringent quality standards and well-organized procedures have resulted in an organization offering a variety of high quality crafts. The first trade exposition resulted in sales of more than $70,000 for 89 participating crafts people. The event attracted more than 200 wholesale buyers.

FCS conducted a feasibility study in FY 1974 for a fishermen's association in North Carolina, and is presently assisti[illegible] the implementation of the study. An FCS development specialist is statione[illegible] the co-op in Manteo, to provide day-to-day, on-the-scene assistance. The co-op has 260 boat operator members who shipped approximately 9 million pounds of fish during the first year's operation beginning July 15, 1974. The major impact of the co-op on the members and the community is to upgrade marketing conditions and pricing and to increase financial returns to fishermen in a 10-county area.

FCS has been involved with the Indian Jojoba Project since 1971. During FY 1975, some of the reservations in the Sonoran Desert started to make meaningful moves in the ultimate direction of commercial uses and production plantations of the wild Jojoba berry. Two cooperatives have now been organized, the San Carlos Apache Jojoba Marketing Association in Arizona and the Southern California Indian Jojoba Association, Escondido, California. The California co-op is made up of nine reservations. The liquid/wax made from Jojoba berries is a replacement for sperm whale oil, which can no longer be used because the source is an endangered specie and because legislation prohibits the importation of the oil. The Apache Indians are now selling candles containing liquid/wax from the wild berries. The California Indians are establishing Jojoba plantations in order to have domestic production in 5 years.

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

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(All with the U. S. Department of Agriculture)
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ASCS	Kenneth Frick, Administrator Associate Administrator
CSRS	Roy Lovvorn, Administrator T. S. Ronningen, Associate Administrator
ERS	Quentin West, Administrator
ES	Edwin L. Kirby, Administrator George Hull, Associate Administrator
FCS	Administrator
FmHA	Frank Elliott, Administrator Frank Naylor, Associate Administrator
FS	John McGuire, Chief Rexford Resler, Associate Chief
RDS	Walter Guntharp, Administrator Gary Madson, Deputy Administrator
REA	David Hamil, Administrator David Askegaard, Deputy Administrator
SCS	R. M. Davis, Administrator Norman Berg, Associate Administrator
Secretary:	Jerry Klement, RDS

APPENDIX C

STATEWIDE NON-USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

ALABAMA Resource Development Committee. L. G. Rambo, State Executive Director, ASCS, Chairman; 70 members.

COLORADO—State Office of Rural Development; Kenneth Baskette, Executive Director, 1150 Lincoln, Denver 80203.

FLORIDA Rural Areas Development Council; J.N. Busby, Extension Service, Chairman; 48 members.

IOWA Rural Policy Council; Governor Robert Ray, Chairman; 15 members.

KENTUCKY--Governor's Council on Rural Development; Wendell Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 11 members.

MICHIGAN--Council on Rural Development; Dale Bell, State Department of Agriculture, Chairman; 20 members.

MINNESOTA--Governor's Rural Development Council; Jon Wefald, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 27 members.

MONTANA--State Rural Areas Development Committee, Torlief Aasheim, 517 W. Koch, Bozeman 59715, Chairman; 150 members.

NEVADA Resource Action Council; John Lavin, Forest Service, Chairman; 69 members.

NEW JERSEY--Rural Advisory Council; Mark Ewing, 800 Bayview Avenue, Absecon 08201, Chairman; 12 members.

OHIO Resource Development (RAD) Committee; Riley Dougan, Extension Service, Chairman; 45 members.

PENNSYLVANIA--Governor's Council on Rural Affairs; James McHale, State Department of Agriculture, Chairman; 12 members.

PUERTO RICO Rural Development Corporation; Rodrigo Rodriques, State Department of Agriculture, Chairman.

SOUTH CAROLINA Community Development Commission; J. Verne Smith, South Carolina Senate, 308 Edgar Brown Bldg., 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia 29201, Chairman; 23 members.

TENNESSEE Rural Development Group; William Bishop, Extension Service, Chairman; 73 members.

VIRGINIA Resources Council; W.E.Skelton, Extension Service. Chairman; 34 members and Rural Areas Advisory Committee to the Commerce and Resources; Earl Shiflet, Governor, Cabinet, Chairman; 10 members.

VIRGIN ISLANDS Advisory Planning Board; Thomas Blake, Director, Virgin Islands Planning Office, Chairman; 7 members.

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STATE REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E

ABBREVIATIONS

ARS - Agricultural Research Service, USDA
ASCS - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA
BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
COG - Council of Governments
CRD - Community Resource Development
CSRS - Cooperative State Research Service, USDA
EDA - Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
ERS - Economic Research Service, USDA
ES - Extension Service, USDA
FCS - Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA
FmHA - Farmers Home Administration, USDA
FS - Forest Service, USDA
FY - Fiscal Year
HEW - U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
HUD - U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development
RD - Rural Development
RDS - Rural Development Service
REA - Rural Electrification Administration, USDA
SBA - Small Business Administration
SCS - Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Title V - Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972
USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture